

*Hi! We're busy  
being diplomatic  
and we don't go to  
university.  
Perhaps you won't  
either after you've read*

*Breakfast of Morons on pp4-5*

Also in this issue:

*FIVE PAGE DRUG SPECIAL , A.U.S COUNCIL REPORT ,*

*LAW SCHOOL SLANDERED , THE AMAZING ATHOL!*

*AND HEAPS OF OTHER FUCKING WHIZZO STUFF.*

WORONI

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# EDITORIAL.



At Our Desk.

*Hello snotface. I suppose once you think you've got here you've made it. Well you haven't you know. You've still to become a student heavy, like US, the Woroni Collective! Well we are now going to pander to your delusions of grandeur, and your megalomania, and show you how to manipulate the media to your own ends.*

*Manipulation of the media basically involves contributions. This means you shisskopf. Some people within this Association could give the impression that it didn't, but it does. In other words, if you are to avoid abusive epithets such as . . . Crumble-dink, an anal retentive, a heap of maggot ridden scum, mindless whining poxy automatons or a member of the A.N.U. Liberal Society . . . then you must become involved in the machinations of this basically drivell ridden rag. A 'gentle' warning. You should keep in mind that any involvement in student politics must of necessity render you open to piercing laser type glances, torrents of verbal and written abuse (see above), and a continuing need to consume as many*

*chemicals as possible in order to stem the evil tide (see above) Now don't be put off, remember, it is quite likely that you will develop as vile a tongue as your opponents. If you have any good ideas, stories, cartoons, or poems (ha, ha!), even on something besides student politics, then we want it, because we have fuck all. Don't be put off by the hordes of strident neo Stalinists, Fascists, Trotskyists, Anarchists or looneys that you may encounter on your way through to our sanctum. They can only abuse you or ask, "What do YOU want?" Ignore them. They aren't worth a pinch of parrot droppings. Remember the immortal words of the Bard, "To thine own self be true, you shfup." So, there.*

Subscriptions are now due for renewal. Subscription fees are \$5.00 per annum and are payable to:

A.N.U. Students' Association,  
P.O. Box 4,  
Canberra, ACT, 2600.

## Letters

WORONI WILL PUBLISH ANY LETTERS THAT ANYONE WRITES AS LONG AS THEY CONTAIN MONEY. OTHERS WILL BE CONSIDERED ON THEIR MERITS. LETTERS CAN BE LEFT IN THE S.A. OFFICE, OR POSTED TO WORONI, C/- ANUSA, P.O. BOX 4, CANBERRA, ACT, 2600.

### Slime

Dear Eds,

I think its about time that you slimy pseudo pols woke up to yourselves and realised that the vast majority of non-thinking students are in fact exercising an ancient right, preceding even the great Magna Carta — namely, stupidity. I mean, lets face it, noone could care less. I know I couldn't. And who could blame them? And when we of the ANU stupidity league (formerly the ANU Liberal Socy.) try to point out these few simple facts, we are howled down by scum like you. Let's see a few changes this year, alright?

Yours mindlessly,  
Cryil Mutton (Mrs)

FOR ALL PROSPECTIVE CONTRIBUTORS WE PUBLISH THE DEADLINES AND RELEASE DATES FOR 'WORONI' IN FIRST TERM:

DEADLINE	RELEASE DATE.
1. 16 February	26 February
2. 2 March	12 March
3. 16 March	26 March
4. 30 March	9 April
5. 13 April	23 April

DEADLINES ARE FINAL. RELEASE DATES ARE TENTATIVE, SUBJECT TO PRINTING DELAYS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS.

ah — for out — ah

*I, like, really want to say something like really controversial in the letters column of your paper, you know? To help create that sort of really intellectually stimulating environment, like, but . . . I sorta took 500 trips in two years and now I can't remember things . . . a train of thoughts, like . . . ah, no sorta cohesive ability, . . . there was no form in it, thats it, there was no pattern. I saw God again yesterday, in the Union bar . . . can't remember what he said, Patti Smith was playing though . . . I think. Anyway, as I was saying, I really like aardvarks, they're, like, sorta cool . . . ah . . .*

Yours faithfully,  
the ash tray in the corner.

Dear Editors

*Pssst! don't tell anybody but this is the beginning of the biggest tax dodge scandal in American history.*

Yours confidentially,  
Nelson G. Rockefeller.  
P.S. Interested in the rights of the movie?

### Neo Albanian

a contemptuous regard to the editors. Your pitiful display of utter ignorance of the basic working principles of neo in your editorial makes my bile rise, you have shown your colours you soggy nonentities.

I have put a lot of my time into the working of the union and I'm not going to sit back in, the lowest of lows, apathy and watch it fall to pieces at the hands of some crude naive nineteen year old revolutionary first year from cabbage tree. I see no other alternative than to interpret your policy as a statement of way — remember I am not the only neo . . . there are people in albania who think like me.

Advertising is worth a 10% commission to the student bringing it in. Contact the editor for rates and details.



### PASSPORT PHOTOS

Fridays 12.30-3.00 pm  
Students' Association Office.  
Non rip-off prices.  
\$2 for 2 photos.

## THEATRVM CLASSICVM.

prima histrionum concursio  
ad Plautinam fabulam  
MENAECMI praeludendam in  
Artium Sede agetur pridie  
Kalendas Martias hora  
decima (4.30 p.m.)



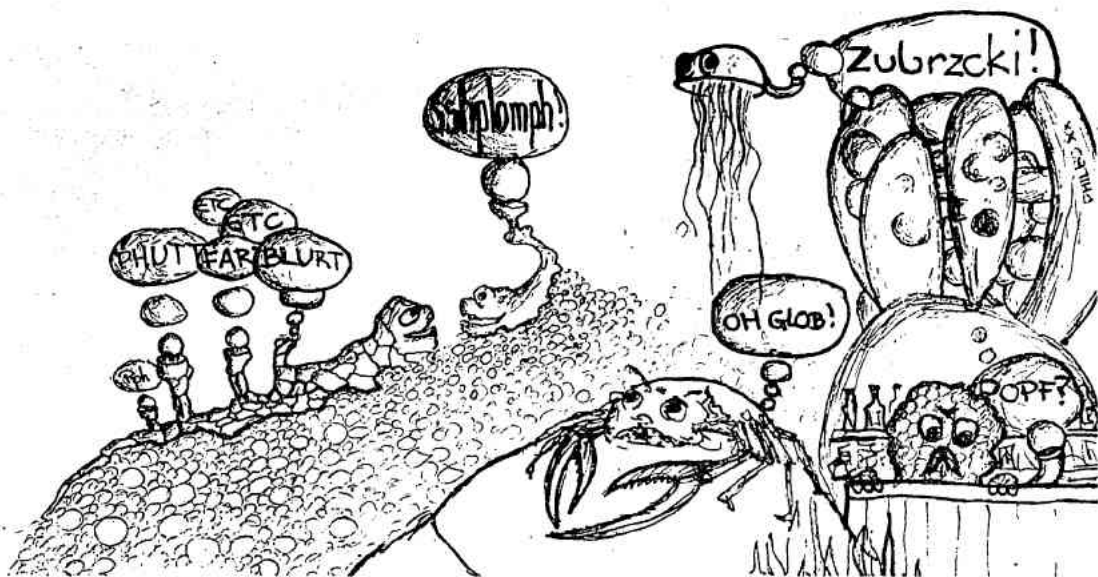
mad hatters  
garden  
party

12pm  
onwards

Sat 3rd  
March

THE COTTAGE 16 Balmain Cres., ANU

# Arts, Farts & Undersea Introductions



A nubile young sponge sat soaking in a murky underwater bar. It was new to him. He had just been washed in on an ebbing ocean current, and a bar of rocks was always the best way to check out any new sea bed. Bubbles of subdued conversation popped lazily around him as he lounged quietly, soaking up the atmosphere (courtesy of a chemical plant near the shore). It was pleasant here, he thought. The brown ooze he was absorbing had a pleasant numbing effect on his polyps and the creatures around him were quiet, simple and only slightly pretentious. He pondered seriously however, upon their strange dialect. 'T'was one he had never heard before. Anusphup, it was called. This was a highly appropriate name as it was not only vaguely onomatopoeic but also because all his fellow shellfish and crustaceans were speaking, or popping or sfhupping from their excretory apertures. (As everyone knows, soft, mushy scaly or hard creatures which live at the bottom of the sea are often reduced to this situation as common or polypular openings are not frequent.) The sponge listened closely as a sea slug started up a conversation with two mud-crabs nearby: Sea Slug: Hay Don, Allen! Have you woofed much scales downer to your stomach, today, schfup pop splunge? Make a much hardy cement to forge dent in

obstinate rock, hew what! Psssssoop. (Sea slug sound equivalent to elbow nudge in ribs, that is if sea slugs and mud crabs had elbows and ribs, which they don't.)

Don: No, we grieve and are herbst much for our kin, loched in adjacent cavern, popf. This eventide a huge lobster from Ireland, lycos them, rensch them from rock, and hold them for whale's ramson, bubpf. Richard's son and two of John's sons were taken, ssspfuf.

Allen: Yes, it's terrible, plubbslupf. We craven food the thought of it makes my stomach kuhn at the moment, futt, futt, sooup!

Don: Aye, never has a truding been said; sop, sssst. I feel the same, futt. Hughes to save us, shupf!?

Sea Slug: You mean hume is to save you sfup you sfup, sup?

Don: No it arndt that, burble . . . the sponge could hear no more, the conversation was drowned out by a huge foreign jellyfish demanding a Zubrzcki on the rocks. No-one understood what he wanted and there was a mild turbulence. The sponge mused and thought he might float around here for a while. After all, it wasn't what the creatures said which made him interested, but how they said it, sfhup.

## Wind

The Union is to have a new bar. The old meetings room, replete with carpet and pine panelling, is to provide the venue. The Board is reconstructing with the thought of providing an alternative to the present bar. Apparently some of the growing numbers of part time and mature age students find the atmosphere there uncomfortable. By providing another quieter drinking spot within the building the Union is aiming to attract these people back. The new bar will demand that patrons wear some sort of covering on the upper half of their bodies, and footwear (minimum of thongs). There will be 10% extra charged on drinks. Early March should see this new water-hole open. The Union's other forays into providing a 'richer alternative' service (i.e. the bistro and waitered table service) have not been so successful. It will be interesting to see how this venture fares.

Robert Anton Wilson, one of the co-authors of the science fiction trilogy, ILLUMINATUS, was quoted at the opening of the eight hour stage version of his story, as saying . . . "We think that DNA is an intelligent entity, more intelligent than any of us — it designed all of us. And we think that DNA has a definite project in mind — that is to say, immortality. I think that what it's been working on all along is to produce immortal organisms which are capable of travelling off the planet — transcending the mammalian condition, the struggle for existence, and so on. And actually, to be blunt about it, become God-like beings. I think that that's been the program of life from the very beginning." How's that for religion of science, or a science of religion, or something like that.

Q: What is green and red and goes at ninety K.P.H.?

A: A frog in a blender.

So here's something to think about. The Chinese have invaded Vietnam, right. If the Russians come to the party and they did it, you know, "it," cream each other so to speak, then the radioactive cloud would take approximately a year to reach Australia, depending on the wind conditions. Imagine, what a year it would be . . .

We here at Woroni would like to take this opportunity to welcome everybody here who hasn't been here before and to extend conditional greetings to all those who are returning. (Though why on earth anyone would want to return is beyond me). We hope that everything will work out well for you and that you will not turn into a rabid mongoose type creature that lives in Bruce Hall and pretends to study the contents of rats' stomachs. Even worse things have happened. On the other hand you could turn into a graduate and go away, but that's alright, because we wouldn't have to look at you then. Anyway, enjoy this year, it could after all, be your last.

WOMEN who wish to join with others in creating a safe, free close atmosphere to talk about themselves  
themselves as people  
themselves as women  
themselves as sexual beings  
and their relationships with others are invited to a

### WOMEN'S GROUP

which will meet weekly in the Counselling Unit Group Room, on

WEDNESDAY, lunch times, starting the 21st March 1979.

#### Enrolment procedures:

Women who would like to take part in this group are invited to discuss their enrolment by calling in at the Counselling Unit above the Health Service between 9 and 5 on Tuesday, March 13th or 15th. Numbers will be limited. Registration fee \$1.00

LEILA BAILEY and MARGARET EVANS will be joint leaders of this group.

### A.N.U. ATHEIST SOCIETY

#### PUBLIC DEBATE

— Dr Michael Tooley  
(of the Research School of Social Sciences)  
will defend the view that God does not exist.

and

— Dr Robert Edgeworth  
(of the Department of Classics)  
will show that atheism is intellectually untenable.

The debate will be followed by a question-time in which the audience will be welcome to participate.

AT LAST YOU WILL KNOW WHETHER GOD EXISTS OR NOT!

Thursday 1 March.  
12 noon. The Tank

Admission Free.

## BREAKFAST OF MORONS

Little Johnny Moppity watched his parents' Volvo drive away from Burgmann College, its number plates glinting in the sun. He would have fought back the tears if he had felt like crying. But he didn't. Little Johnny didn't, in fact, feel like anything very much. He was a product of his upbringing. His mother had left him with a kiss and a clean hanky, his father had given him \$10 and a pain in the neck.

Little Johnny Moppity could have done one of two things. He could have talked to someone, or waited for someone to talk to him. But he didn't know that yet. So, looking at his little map — thoughtfully enclosed in his University Orientation Pack — he decided to walk into Civic.

Burgmann College confused him, he felt happier to wander away. With its bright and chandeliered entrance foyer, bustling desk clerks and starched penguin porters, it was more than a boy from Eastwood (or Glen Waverly or Tea Tree Gully) could comprehend. The aging penguin who had shown him to his room had skin like old cornflakes and a voice to match. Actually he spoke like Vincent Price inside a coal-scuttle, but Little Johnny had never heard of Vincent Price, so he didn't draw that comparison. His room was certainly very comfortable — the penguin had shown him how to operate the sound system, and had explained the hot water settings in the private bathroom. In fact, Burgmann College was just like home. But he felt unwelcome. Was it perhaps that his father was only a Grade 3 Corporate Advisor? He knew that the sons and daughters of Corporate Advisors Grade 1 or 2 were given penthouse suites on the roof level, and had their own valets. But ... a Grade 3 was better than a Grade 5 or 6, and he had seen plenty of parents that day who looked as if they might be those.

However, the day was warm and sunny, the greeny groves and little lawns around the college looked ready to burst forth with Pooh Bears and Christopher Robins. Little Johnny slouched off into this expanse of nature, irresolute, but in the right direction.

He observed some buildings and the occasional gardener. He noticed the dangerous sprinklers. He spotted what he took to be an academic, scuttling about the bushes behind the Forestry Building, in a chicken head, making "Book, Book, Book" noises and scratching in the paving pebbles. He knew that a few 'strange' academics had been allowed to remain in The New System; although their esoteric schools of thought bore no relevance to Material Culture, their reservoirs of knowledge concerning irrelevant esoteria were considered useful. In a sense, these strange and marvelled-at remainders embodied History and Cultural Heritage.

Passing by the Chifley Library he encountered a party of visitors being treated to a guided tour of the campus.

The guide wore a blue tunic covered with medals and was ushering the party into the Library foyer. Little Johnny shivered and hurried past. He had heard that eventually he would have to go inside THERE and that when he did

his actions would predetermine his academic future forever. His Orientation pack described the process in intricate and intimidating detail. He heard the guide introduce the party to the Head Librarian who answered in a voice of steeled and catalogued precision, and he felt suddenly struck. From the bottom of his gut a shooting knife had cut him in two, and in his head the flash of red gave way to a vision of a young man removing his toenails with pliers and dropping them into a cigarette packet. Somewhat aroused, Little Johnny washed that one away pretty quickly, nevertheless, as he walked on, he realized that it had made an impression.

Civic soon exploded in front of him in a ather of screaming taxis and flying orange buses. Public Servants of all grades and classes avoided each other with their newspapers. The petrol-fumed din was peppered with their polite expletives; "Excuse me", "Beg your pardon" and the harsher "Damn class 4s". What Little Johnny didn't realise was that it wasn't always like this, he would have been less perturbed had he known that Civic only came alive twice a day, on weekdays, and that it lived its short life to the full at those times. To rupturing point, in fact. To collect his minimal wits and his breath, he dived into a nearby shop, which happened to be Merivale. He stared blankly at the rows of satin safari suits, and dived out again. Diving from shop-front to shop-front, he eventually made the length of Alinga Street. Avoiding almost certain death at the pedestrian-crossing where there isn't one in East How, he gained the dubious solace and pizza-parloured quietude of Garema Place.

A Digression — it has often been the wonder of this writer at that almost primeval instinct that will impel a suburban boy or girl to search out and mouthily destroy any pizza on sight, when placed in a situation of stress and confusion.

And this is exactly what Little Johnny did. The Primeval Pizza exerted its soggy pull, and he entered the Soprana Pizza Parlour. Undecided between the Neapolitan and the Hawaiian (as most of us are from time to time) he hung at the counter. The man in the moustache looked at him poisonously. In this reality of Mozzarella and Macaroni he relaxed into his familiar sub-culture. Suddenly, from over his shoulder, came a croaking voice laced with anchovy.

"Hey kid", it said. Little Johnny blinked and turned. "Me?"

"Yeah". Little Johnny in his infinite caution replied, "Yes?"

"Hey kid", it said again, around a piece of pineapple. "You wanna buy some Subversive Culture?" Little Johnny paused, taunted by pubescent visions of contorted flesh — torn between them, his mother's warnings, and his indecision on the matter of pizza variety.

"Come over here", coughed the voice, which Little Johnny had by now located in a matted beard, which was in turn lodged on a dirty overcoat, and propped in the corner by the window. He decided on the Hawaiian — and drawn by something he couldn't explain, went over to the beard's table and sat down.

"Yes?", he offered.

"You at Uni?", spat the hairy overcoat.

"Yes".

"Why?", it spat, this time with cheese.

"Huh?" Little Johnny was perplexed.

"Yeah, why?" It sniffed and bit a shrivelled mushroom.

Little Johnny thought he'd better break the deadlock that seemed to be forming.

"I dunno". He offered hopefully.

"Not like it used to be", grated the beard, which commenced mutilating a baclava.

"Why?" Little Johnny was even more perplexed.

The beard sighed. "Look man...", it sounded like George Thourgood after a hard night out. "Look man, take a look at this."

It pulled from the recesses of its overcoat a spotty and greased folded piece of newspaper, and smoothed it with black and yellow fingertips into the pool of coffee in front of Little Johnny.

Little Johnny looked down, expecting a panorama of naked and twisted flesh. Unfortunately it showed nothing but a lot of beard-like people being chased by police. The heading read 'Woroni'. Little Johnny did not disguise his disappointment. His pizza hit the table in front of him, and when the shower of spilt coffee had cleared he toothily began to destroy it.

The beard sneered. It did its George Thourgood impression again.

"That Subversive Culture kid, that's your real Heritage". Something in Little Johnny's naive stare must have angered it. Gnashing its baclava out of the way it jabbed a twisted forefinger in his direction, and let forth.

"What do you think it really is, this New System? What makes you think that your luxury life-style and Preprogrammed Tuition and Systematised Job Allocation are the best way?"

Little Johnny stopped chewing. He was beginning to realize with a sinking certainty that this being in front of him was a Grey Relic. He'd been taught about Grey Relics at school. "A sub-cultural social phenomenon produced by the moving into the Educated Classes of sections of the lower socio-economic strata, or values thereof, in the late 60s and early 70s. Prone to social disillusionment as a result of class displacement, resulting in self-alienation and social resentment, by individuals. In failing to find class placement or to employ acquired knowledge, individuals seek to abnegate class on all levels. This condition is exacerbated by frequent use of relaxant drugs and the cultivation of 'non-normal' life-styles. Ultimately leads to frustration, ignorance and violence. Phenomenon has ceased to generate since restructuring of class boundaries and variation of education system in accordance with

economic relations. Relics almost extinct."

Little Johnny hadn't quite understood all that, but he knew it was meant to warn him. The living proof that sat at the table opposite him began to terrify him. He choked on his pizza.

"Education is not what you think it is," snarled the Grey Relic, extremely angry. "And the University is not what it's supposed to be!"

That was too much. Little Johnny gagged. He spat a mouthful of pineapple and ham right into the Grey Relic's lap. He heaved, and the laminex covered plywood seat coll-



apped under him. The Grey Relic went backwards through the window. The man in the moustache came at him with a carving knife and a pizza tray. His eyes were the colour of strawberry gelato. Little Johnny ran. Out into Garema Place, he knocked over four Children of God outside the Chicken Gourmet, and two unemployed people on the way to Social Security. As a result, they did not get their dole cheques for nearly six years. He was berserk. Screeching down Alinga Street, he knew he had to find refuge. He knew that he wouldn't find it in the Sunrise Cafe, or in the Corfu Milkbar, and these were the only places he could see with open doors. The Grey Relic had stripped away his carefully nurtured suburban rubbiness. He had never, not *ever*, thought or supposed anything to be anything. He had always been told that something was something, and accepted that without question. The idea that something might be something else, or even . . . anything else at all, was a nightmare. It was like television ceasing to exist, or not being able to go to University, or . . . NO, it was worse. He didn't have words for how much worse it was. Through the evening shadows he fled back to University.

In the quiet after-hours of the Haydon-Allen building a handful of grey uniformed Lecturers and lilac-uniformed Tutors were preparing their Course Programmes for the first week of term. The History Department on the first floor was still. Staccato bursts of typing only vaguely penetrated the seminar room where a group of green-uniformed Markers were being briefed by a black-uniformed Assessment Controller. Unusual Student Behaviour was something out of the reality of the staff there, as in all departments. Least of all were they capable of withstanding anything so unprogrammed as a shock. And a shock they got, one which had the potential to almost detune their Collective Central Nervous System. Little Johnny, now half-naked and shrieking, kicked open the double doors at the end of the hall. He wreaked his vengeance on the filing cabinets in the Student Correction Office, the staff fled as he attacked their office machinery.

Far away, in the Chancery, a cleaner saw a flock of typewriters and adding machines ascend almost magically from the Haydon-Allen windows, far into the air, and come to earth like a shower of autumn leaves shed by a heavenly NCR or Adler Tree. The sheer poetry of it held him, it wasn't until the windows of the Philosophy and Sociology Departments had similarly issued forth that he panicked and called the University Guard.

Little Johnny was familiar with David Bowie, he began to think of death and the existential void. "Fleas the size of rates", and "The sterile sky-scrapers" became large in his mind. They flung themselves up all around him. Every block-like building became an enemy — he sought to smash and destroy. When he burst into the Chifley Library, the party of visitors were just being shown out. That same steely voice he had earlier heard now seemed to stand like a shield between him and the sensitive and smashable playthings inside. The piped muzak played — James Last — on the ground floor. Only a few students, those in the Distinction

Collection, moved inside the building, followed by their Data Collectors in attendance. Behind their glass partitions, they resembled dummies. Two lone and unprotected Low Achievers scrabbled and scratched painfully in the Pass Collection. Towards these Little Johnny headed, armed with a stapling machine. But before he could strike, Little Johnny was stunned by a blow in his head. The room swerved and dipped, and a great transformation in what he saw took place. You could have said that he was having a flashback. Except that he hadn't taken anything — except half a Soprano pizza. Little Johnny tore off the rest of his clothes. Naked, he leaped onto the Loans Desk. Aging Librarians became goannas and hid. The steely-voiced man danced the Watusi on the Readers' Advisors' chair. The clocks swelled and began to spin. Round and round the hands went. Outside, the sun set and rose six times. The clocks burst, and a great sigh went up from all the books on the walls. Then a goanna hit him with its tail, and two men in blue carried him outside, and threw him through the front window of the A.D. Hope Building. He was dazed.

The men in white trucks drove him back to Burgmann College, where the dinner gong had just sounded. But to Little Johnny Moppity things were not what they had seemed anymore. In the dining room waiters were moving silently, serving food and wine and being very polite. They sat him at a table and put a serviette around his neck. No-one seemed to have noticed that he was completely naked. Then it happened again. This time to the weird and nightly echoes of Roxy Music.

"Darkness falls, round your window pane, a light still burns, but just a smouldering flame. It is the end of another affair . . . ?" So Little Johnny heard in his blitzkrieged head. He started. Out the window he saw all the Poohi Bears and Christopher Robins and even Piglet dancing around the Linear Accelerator Tower at the Research School of Physical Sciences. Then the tower split and fell into the lake. Little Johnny sighed —

this was getting boring. He went to his room. He thought of the large Educational Grant that his father, as a Corporate Advisor Grade 3, was getting to send him there. He thought of the cost. And then he thought of himself. And he felt like an object, a thing, part of a process, a bit of raw material. A rush of Pink Floyd hit him, — predictably, "Welcome to the Machine". Welcome be damned, he thought, and spent the next three hours covering the walls of his private bathroom with non-removable graffiti.

Little Johnny Moppity's first day at University was not a happy one. He didn't talk to any other students and none of them talked to him. But . . . he met with a lot of interesting ideas, and a couple of strange and different experiences. In time, he ventured out to the Students' Club, often eating there in the large dining room and going to dances in The Freshers' Bar on Tuesday nights. He played squash and tennis at the Students' Country Club, swam in the pool and took horse-riding lessons. But that one fleeting vision of that 'Woroni' still bothered him.

One day he happened to be in the Menzies Library, when he noticed a lot of dusty old magazines stacked in a corner. And in a filthy old red folder he found back copies of THAT magazine. He was at once entranced and revolted. The bare confrontation with something unprogrammed held him in bleak fascination. The floor attendant saw consternation pass like a hand over Little Johnny's face. He put him to bed in a Regeneration Cell on the first floor, and made him coffee. The old attendant was a warm person, although ground down by years of mindless duty, cheap cigarettes and haemorrhoids. His instinct to help the weak rather than to reprocess them had remained alive.

"You're on the way out, son", he murmured to Little Johnny.

"So what." Little Johnny was just about ready to bust his fine tune button, to blow his tube.

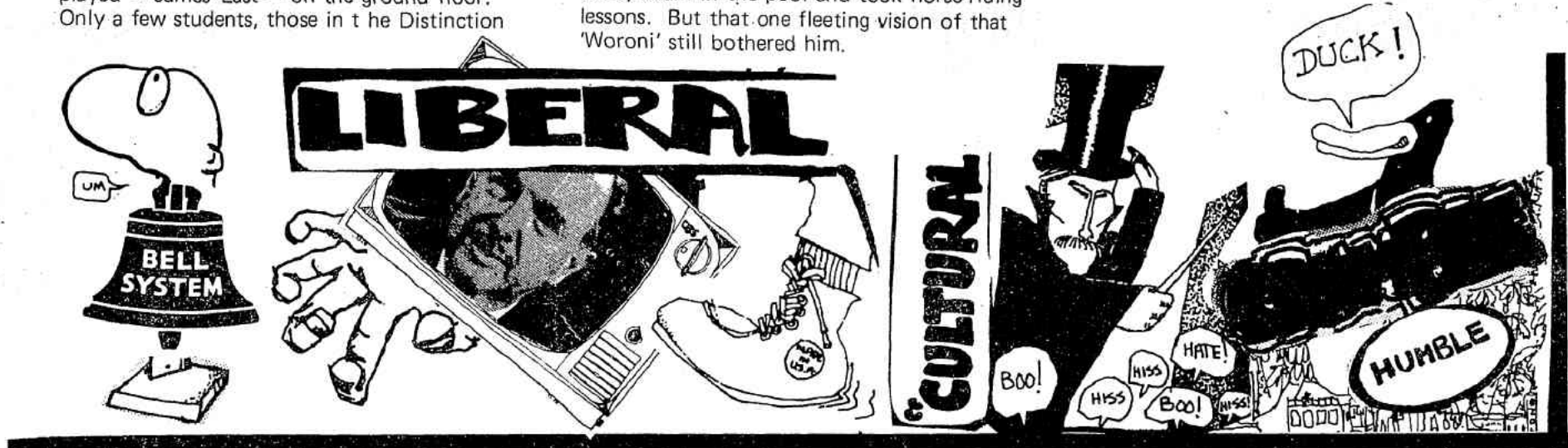
"Out of the line." This was the current expression for those who failed to qualify in enough Standard Achievement Units — and were excluded. The University had a set retention rate — therefore 16% of each year's enrolments had to under-achieve.

"You know what, son, you don't feel feel it yet, not so as you'd recognise it, but you're trying to knock down a monolith by pissing on it. Their piss is stronger than yours, son, they'll drown you in it."

"So what", Little Johnny was really demoralized by now — the room began to fill with a strange hissing, smoke from his burning high-school transistors curled up under the door. The Menzies hadn't smelt so much ozone since the night in the dark past when the last human Vice-Chancellor tied himself to a video machine and self-immolated — as a protest against The New System.

The night rose mournfully, the clouds slurped slowly over the gutless moon. Little Johnny staggered down to the Students' Club to get drunk. Things howled in the distance, there was blood on the steps of the bar. He slunk into a seat with a Scotch and a sigh. The barman called to him that his account was due. Little Johnny knew it would be a big one — he'd been drinking rather a lot since he'd been given a Low Achiever Rating in two Departments. And they wouldn't let him near the typewriters and adding machines either. He'd better ask his father to pay it.

The waiter served him his sausage roll and chips, he masticated and ruminated. So it goes such is life what a boring cliché, he mused. Mother had always told him that life was what you made it. Life, like International Terrorism, seemed to be something that could never happen here. One, of course was whatever the Machine made one. Therefore one's life was made by the Machine. Little Johnny, a drowning boy, grasped out for this basic syllogism. Perhaps, he thought, I can make something before the Machine does. A Revelation. With that he ate his chips.



# Presidential Rumblings

## 1

The arguments for compulsory unionism have been well rehearsed over the past year, and in the O-Week Handbook. In case you missed them, we need a compulsory union because without full membership we cannot adequately press for students' welfare and interest; we cannot work to the benefit of all; we cannot represent every point of view. With a compulsory union, providing it is democratically and fairly run, we can achieve manifold benefits. Past history has shown this: the compulsory student unions have achieved such benefits as: the abolition of compulsory 100% exams; the institution of staff-student consultation over courses; the introduction of tertiary allowances; greater free dom within universities for students to choose their courses and lifestyles.

The services provided by the Students' Association were established through the compulsory membership. These were outlined to University Council at its February meeting thus:

#### Administration and Funding:

Parents Day  
Orientation Week  
Bush Week  
Student Identity cards  
The Cottage  
Information and advice

#### Funding:

Radio 2XX (part funding)  
A wide range of art and craft equipment  
The Creche  
Bulk food co-operative (with membership of well over 1,000 students, close to Toad Hall)

Clubs and Societies (ranging from theatrical groups, debating societies, political clubs to cultural societies, SCUNA, the Choral Society, anthropology, science and such like societies, art and craft groups — the Students' Association funds and help administer about 50 clubs or societies each year)  
P.A.M.S. — part-timers and mature-age students society.

#### Publications:

Woroni  
Orientation Week Handbook  
Assistance has in the past been given to Prometheus, Canberra Poetry, the ANU Historical Journal, etc.

#### Administration:

Loan Fund  
Lennox House (low-cost accommodation)  
Childers Street Theatre.

Additionally, the Students' Association has for several years given \$10,000 p.a. to the Arts Centre. It helped establish the Union, the second-hand bookshop and Radio ANU. It sponsors concerts, lectures, debates and the like. It has organised surveys of students on educational and other matters. Most of the office work is concerned with the enquiries of students who have difficulties with the University, landlords, personal problems, assessment, etc. The Students' Association provides a link between the University and its students; the Students' Association participates in University government at all its levels. The Students' Association represents students not only to University, but to the community as a whole. Almost all its expenditure is directed towards these functions.

But some people do not recognise the benefits of compulsory unionism. Their objections have induced the university to abandon compulsory membership, and the Federal government to introduce legislation to force the University to abandon compulsory membership. It remains to be seen whether the government will press its legislation in the light of the University's decision.

There is no compulsory membership now, and though the University collects a general services fee compulsorily, that fee will go to the University, which will then decide how best student services should be provided.

It is anticipated that the S.A. services will continue to be provided through the S.A., because the pool of voluntary labour and efficiency of operation of the S.A. makes it the most effective means of providing those services.

The University's legislation differs from the government's in that it does not specifically prohibit payments to national bodies (e.g. A.U.S.). There is no doubt that the ANUSA Constitution would allow these payments, or that the A.U.S. is of direct benefit to students at this University. The bulk of A.U.S. activities are concerned with education: probably the least publicised of its areas of interests.

If a Students' Association believes it is to the benefit of its members that the S.A. be affiliated with A.U.S. there is no justification for imposition of restrictions on that payment.

## 2

The same promises, at every S.A. election. Every year, a new broom. Sometimes the old broom in disguise; sometimes a broom that turns out to be a wet sponge. Just occasionally, there is some change in the way the Students' Association operates or relates to students.

#### 1979 WILL BE SUCH A YEAR

Some of the people who have for many years dominated the Students' Association have gone. Others have come up with fresh ideas (gasp, horror, shock). 1979 will be a year of real effort, on several fronts. Workloads our major campaign. Less tedious hack-work, more study and interests. These are our aims and I intend to organise a staff student seminar on the problem; this is one area where a common front is possible — academic staff are as tired of heavy assessment loads as we are. The alternative is not examinations, but lighter workloads and fairer assessment of work.

Childcare is another area of concern. The need for a second creche has become even more pressing. We will also be concentrating upon achieving for staff and students access to files that the administration keeps on them.

These are possibilities which lie before Students' Association General Meeting. Meetings decide policy, not president. No Stalinist dictatorships from presidents' office in '79: come to meetings (every 2nd Wednesday night in term time — and make your viewpoint felt.

The people to know, incidentally, are:

President,	Stephen Bartos
Treasurer,	Chris Warren
Trustee	Chris Keats
A.U.S. Sec.	David Braddon-Mitchell.
Woroni Collective:	
	Beth Pattinson
	Charles Livingstone
	Tony Lambert

You can become a Student Association help-person (working for the good of all, romantic and exciting) by nominating for one of over 20 elective positions in the first week of term. Education Committee, Finance Committee, Clubs & Societies Committee, representatives on Board and Faculties, Welfare Officer: you could be suited for one of these positions.

Please, please (though I say it so many times) come and see me or one of the elected officers at any time. If we don't know what you think, how can we represent you? Involvement is no crime. Politics is no disgrace. Your Students' Association is YOU. Your elected officers love you. What have you got to lose?

Stephen Bartos  
Prez.

#### \$10 FOR YOUR OLD WORONI

Collector of WORONI will pay \$10 for good copy of

WORONI, No. 1, 1976  
(Orientation Week)

Contact: Jonathan Brown,  
Flat 103,  
Graduate House,  
A.N.U.

#### ANU ALP STUDENTS' CLUB

#### PRESENTS

MICK YOUNG, MHR  
Federal ALP spokesperson on Employment and Industrial Relations.

Speaking on:

Labor Employment Policy and Graduate Unemployment.

Thursday, 8th March at 1.15pm  
and

SENATOR JOHN BUTTON  
Federal ALP Spokesperson on Education

Speaking on:

Education — the ALP View

Friday 9th March at 10.30am

Both in the Meetings Room, Union Building (follow the signs.)

## ANU Film Group

Film Group Programs are now available. Membership tickets available in Union Foyer 10am to 2pm during O-Week.

# THE PAUSE: Sailing ship on the rocks

Since August 1975, higher education has been subject to the 'freeze'. The replacement, by the rolling triennium, of fixed triennial grants has meant that funding has been open to annual review. Educationalists and administrators have described this new phase as one of no growth, or a 'steady state'. With a view to considering its implications for the future, it can be termed 'the aftermath of expansion'. Nineteen seventy-five has been named the year of the pause. If one is to consider the wide social and economic aspects of this new phase, the 'pause' should be seen rather as a turning point.

Tertiary expansion since the war has stimulated much philosophising about the role of the university, very little of which has really been absorbed by those who run and staff tertiary institutions. 'Education for education's sake', like 'Art for art's sake', has been a catch cry of the liberal free-thinker, and an often unspoken but implicit rationale for the continuation of extensive studies in the humanities. This kind of thinking has no doubt contributed to what is presently seen as a trend towards the acceptability of a more generalised education.

Butted against this view is that of the technical or economic thinker, who tends to place job placement and university training in the strict relationship: qualify and be employed. The two are not necessarily contradictory. However, the issue of education and employment is a supercontentious one. Social moods and attitudes in a given economic climate tend to polarise opinions towards the one or the other. Demands for and resistances to either kind of tertiary system will always be strong, and often emotive. Spurious arguments about retaining the quality of knowledge and the freedom of education are easily countered by equally spurious ones about the practical and non-intellectual nature of life in the real world.

One could spout for pages on the purpose of education, and how much it should or shouldn't be structured for the job market. But, there is not much to be gained from doing so in anything much smaller than a large book. Rather, let us assume that there are certain qualities which make a person employable. In the tertiary sector, these will significantly derive from what graduates were offered by their universities in the way of knowledge, practical skills and personal development. If, in this new era of the pause (as was stated by the present Federal Minister for Education) growth is to be replaced with a concern for the quality of graduates, criteria of quality need to be established by students and teachers. These ought to be based on the concern that government and industrial policy will be such as to reduce higher education to a situation of supply and demand, wherein they become merely commodity articles. This is a concern which extends to all fields of technical and secondary education as well.

The question of what these criteria should be has been variously debated, and will continue to be. One can consider two opposing viewpoints, both presented at last year's Conference on Tertiary Education in the Aftermath of Expansion, held at A.N.U., Doctor L.J. Barker, Director of the Darling Downs Institute of Advanced Education, suggested that the 'sailing ship', which is the present tertiary system, should be replaced by a new 'steam' model. This



There are moments when one feels that, whatever trauma the "aftermath" — and I am using this word in the literal sense of "after the mowing" — brings to academics, it will be a retribution.

steam model would return to fundamentals: new courses would be structured to fit the needs of the present society. On the surface, this is uninspiring. It is also an argument which is based upon structural reform of higher education, and *not* reform of what higher education actually is, that is teaching and learning. A paper presented by Professor Ernest Roe at the conference discusses these aspects. His paper is appealing for its combination of idealism and slightly cynical but well-warranted realism concerning the obstacles to change.

The gist of the paper is that the period of 'pause' should be used to instigate changes, long overdue, in educational practice. Professor Roe considers that the willingness to self-examine on the part of staff and students is the basis of a regeneration of interest and enthusiasm in teaching and learning. One is presently faced with a situation of restricted funding. Because funding is based on student numbers, faculties and departments are naturally concerned to keep those numbers. Hence, if students were to be insistent about improvements in teaching and learning, and leave those areas where their insistence was ignored, certain academics would find themselves in a tenuous situation. The faculties concerned could lower their quotas to attract the missing numbers: at A.N.U. the Faculty of Economics has already done this. Alternately, they could be made to sit up [and take notice, students need only to make the move. But before students can legitimately present their institutions with demands, they must formulate their own educational aims. At present, this is not happening (Social apathy is a very pervasive phenomenon.) Staff resentment in the face of unthinking student sanctimoniousness can hardly be blamed.

Research and Development Units such as A.N.U.'S Office for Research in Academic Method have an increasing

role to play. Very simply — they can act as agents of improvement by being media of exchange and consultation between staff and students, and bodies within tertiary institutions. Professor Roe makes the point that to do this they must have the unequivocal backing of their institutions — which they presently do not. At A.N.U. ORAM has been conducting surveys and making reports for the last four years. But, although these have had certain results, there is as yet no university policy on improvements in teaching and learning. Such a policy is needed to give ORAM the credibility to overcome the suspicions of certain academics. Nor has there been any uniformity in the adoption of reforms it has suggested. Of course, the Great Debates continue. The Assessment Debate, the 10-10 Debate, and so on, not dying issues by any means, but issues which have been worn out in the approaches people take to them. Should they rest as they are until there grows some kind of 'spontaneous motivation' to act upon them? Such a question is as unanswerable as it is unnecessary. There are other, wider factors to consider.

Tertiary education will never again be the same as it was in the 60s and 70s. Whatever it is to become, it will do so in the face of a radically changed job market. Schools, universities, colleges and techs will continue to turn out a large pool of 'qualified' people who will spend at least a large part of their lives intermittently, partially or not at all employed. The personal condition of unemployability as a result of demoralisation will become more common. Whatever technological or utopian solution capitalism may propose for the future, this group of dissatisfied and 'wasted' people will remain. Even if they are not placed within it, they will not be able to be ignored. They will be people to whom their educat-

ion was a pointless and frustrating exercise. Perhaps the challenge for educational institutions in the face of this circumstance is to find ways to remove, at least, the frustrations of the education experience. Ultimately, they may be able to provide the personal resources for social change, such that people will not have to move into a world where they feel there is no point to their existence.

One cannot blame academics alone for the frustration they can engender in students. Too often they are preoccupied with 'playing the game' to ensure their own survival. The blame lies with the institutions themselves, and their administrators. Academics can, on the other hand, be blamed for the social myths which they perpetrate, and allow the whole tertiary system to perpetrate, while in their positions of responsibility. The notion that education guarantees employment is one such myth. And, unless, during this period of pause, they examine their own positions vis a vis their students and their institutions, whatever restrictions social change may ultimately place upon them will be nothing other than well deserved.

A.N.U. manifests a fair cross-section of attitudes to change among academics. There are those who are open to advice, and those who most emphatically are not. There are also those who don't much give a damn. Students tend to be much the same.

We have a chance there (maybe a better one than in a lot of tertiary institutions) to begin looking at ourselves. I suggest that we do.

Note: I am specially grateful to ORAM for providing me with material for this article.

Christopher Keats,  
Chairperson. ANUSA  
Education Committee.

# THE CAMPUS GAME

All students, I think are oppressed by the rigidly hierarchical nature of the education system, but to be a woman student is to suffer from another, unique and acute form of oppression as well. We are placed in a contradiction, as we are actively encouraged to get to university or college because a "good education" is very highly valued by our society, but immediately we start our first term we become conscious that we are not really supposed to be there at all. We are antagonised and frustrated and we become confused because it is hard to see just what is going on, and why.

When we receive high marks, males will insinuate that we are having an affair with a male member of staff who writes our essays for us. When we attempt to break new ground in our field of work we are patronisingly told to stick to "safe" ideas and techniques. One woman art student was told:

*"Stick to pastel blues and pinks: they suit you."*

We see our male counterparts respectfully encouraged for just the same sorts of originality and innovation; our problems, our ideas, our very selves are trivialised.

We cannot have the same relationships with our teachers that men students enjoy. The master/apprentice or sage/disciple method is still very much alive as a way of passing on knowledge, and this relationship is not possible for women students in most cases. If our teachers are women, they are divided from us by that very fact, and because they have to act largely as pseudo-men in order to survive in their jobs. If our teacher is a man, he is in a position of power over us, not just because he knows more about his subject than we do, but because he is a man. Not for us the attitude of mutual respect and co-operation which characterises good traditional student-teacher interaction. The dynamics of progressive education methods don't suit us either; many women have little trust in their own resources and find it difficult to hold their own in a group, because they lack confidence.

How do women respond to this situation? Through personal experience, observation and talking to other women I have made a list of some of the survival patterns we are forced to adopt. *And they are the very responses that serve to keep us in the place to which men have designated us.* As students, just as in the rest of our lives, we often compound our own oppression.

Here are some of the things women do:

1. *We put ourselves down.* We have no confidence in our judgment and intelligence; we feel ourselves to be stupid. We read every book and article on the reading list, and *still* don't think we understand. We read so much that, in the end, we really do get confused. We rewrite our essays hundreds of times. Even though we might receive consistently high marks in a particular subject, we are sure, as I was, that the examiners have been making mistakes in our case. If we are praised for our work we feel that people are merely trying to be nice or patronising. If we are adversely criticised we are almost eager to agree with the criticism, to accept it unquestioningly and to feel upset and despondent. If we fail, we are sure that we deserved to.

2. *We put each other down.* In discussion we address remarks to male students and wait for them to speak because we feel that other women probably don't have much to contribute. We regard women teachers as having less authority

in their subject than their male colleagues. In America, recently, a study was done to determine whether the sex of the writer influenced a student's reaction to her/his research article. A collection of six papers on different subjects was given to each of 140 female college students to read. Each booklet contained three papers by men and three by women, but the gender of each author's name was changed in half the booklets, so that (for example) the article by John T. McKay appeared signed "John T. McKay" in half the books, and "Joan T. McKay" in the other half. It was found that, where a research paper was followed by a woman's name, the women students consistently rated it lower on scales such as "competence", "value" and even "style"! It did not matter whether the paper was actually written by a man or a woman; the woman's name at the end condemned it to mediocrity in the student's eyes.

3. Sometimes we deal with our devaluation as students by *pretending not to care.* We stop trying to do more than merely pass. We go to parties all the time and do not work, or we let our personal problems engulf us and say that these things are more important anyway, that we're "only filling in time at uni". We get bored, we do not let ourselves become interested in studying, and deep down, we are afraid to succeed because men will not like us if we do.

4. *We can be a clown.* Some of us draw attention to ourselves by trying to be funny and cute, by doing outrageous things so that at least we are noticed. I used to write silly poems all over the unlined pages in my exam books. I wrote essays in different coloured inks for effect. I chose deliberately what I knew would be seen as a "silly" (read "unusual") thesis topic. The result was to be expected—people stopped taking me seriously altogether and the rumour went around that I had gone mad.



5. *Drop out.* In some ways this seems the only sensible thing to do, but it is obviously self-defeating and I don't propose to discuss it.

6. *Be a little girl.* This related to both the clown and the sex-object approaches. Teachers in tertiary institutions are usually: 1) male, and 2) older than you are. Even if they are neither 1) or 2), they often assume a masculine-authority position because, being in positions of power in patriarchal institutions, it is

only logical. Treat them like uncles. Uncles see you as children to be indulged and tolerated, not as adults who deserve respect. Your lecturer will smile benignly and pat you on the head when you do something clever, but the glory and recognition will not be yours; *they* will take the credit for having taught you.

7. *The sex-object.* This tactic has many variants. The general aim being to gain approval by making yourself attractive to men.

a) Firstly, if you are a lesbian, don't tell anyone. Tell lots of lies instead and invent a boyfriend who lives interstate. You will never succeed as a sex-object unless you do this.

b) One popular method is to become the girlfriend of an older, successful male student in the department of your choice; hang around with the in-crowd. Instead of rising in real status you will be more patronised than ever. He may like to show off his superior knowledge but he won't actually help you with your work. It is not your *intellectual* development that matters to him.

c) Have an affair with a male lecturer. This is as easy as pie to do, because most of them are just waiting for it. But this ploy will leave you picking up the pieces for years. Everyone will know about it. Other women students will both laugh at you and feel jealous of your new "status". Men will think that they have yet more evidence that someone else (your lover) does your work for you, which is why you manage to do tolerably well.

d) Adopt the "Ms College Sophisticate" image. Affect much jewellery and (where practicable) expensive clothes. Become witty, sharp, brittle. Flirt with men but remain aloof. The men will take notice all right, but not of what you say about academic matters. Your cleverness will be what makes you sexually attractive to them. The main problems with this approach are that it's boring, expensive, it's hard to keep up and it's tiresome because hundreds of men fall in love with you. They are boring and you have to get rid of them. They do not want to have intellectual discussions with you, since they have those with other men.

8. *Assume the blue-socking image.* This is related to tactic number 9. The idea here is that, instead of trying to be as attractive to men as possible, you should try to be as *unattractive* to them as possible. Wear plaits and get around in your old school uniform. *Never* go to parties or anything like that. Do not speak to other students or staff unless it is absolutely necessary to discuss your work or ask them to open the window.

This tactic is self-defeating. Men may not respect you if they see you as a sex-object, but they do not see you at all if you appear sexless. Why? Because women are *only* sex-objects to men. If you are not a sex-object you do not exist. QED.

To try to appear sexless is also to tell a lie about yourself, since one's sexuality is a very important fact about a person. Of course, we may not feel sexual attraction for male lecturers or male students or indeed for men at all, but we need to be in touch with our sexual feelings and not to deny them.

9. This tactic is another aspect of the blue-socking approach and is the most dangerous, seductive and the hardest to avoid at all. It is the most difficult to write about. *Try to act like a man.* In fact, this is almost essential





## THE CAMPUS GAME

if we want our degree or diploma, because the piece of paper we receive shows that we have achieved certain standards and can follow certain rules and standards imposed upon us by patriarchy.

The tyranny of patriarchy means that everything "male" is valued and everything "female" is trivialised. In intellectual life, the arts and every other field of human endeavour seen as important in this society, the standards for excellence, the goals, the ideals are all male standards. They are created by and for men. Men dominate us in all aspects of our lives; the power of patriarchy extends to defining what it is to be good at something, stipulating what sort of thing is to be emulated or pursued.

Successful women in academic life are often told that they have "masculine minds", which is literally true, since patriarchy defines what it is to be successful. It is difficult to know what it would be like to be "successful" on other than male terms.

We have to be aggressive — to thump the table in tutorials. We are encouraged to be "objective" and not to allow our feelings or intuition to play any part in our thinking. We are supposed to think in a rigid, logically formal way, sticking to our basic assumptions and principles and leaving nothing undecided or uncertain. A piecemeal, intuitive or multi-faceted approach to our work; a personal perspective is regarded with disdain. In some subjects you are not

even supposed to use the first person in writing your reports!

I studied philosophy at university. Within this discipline certain subjects, such as ethics and aesthetics, were referred to as 'girls' subjects', because it was thought that they did not require such a rigorous and objective approach as other subjects — logic, for example. Girls' subjects placed more emphasis on people's feelings and experiences, and less on abstract concepts, scientific laws and hard, cold facts. Girls' subjects were supposed to be easier, and to obtain high marks in ethics or philosophy of religion was not considered particularly impressive. To prove yourself as a philosopher you had to do well in logic, metaphysics and philosophy of science, which were the "hard core" subjects.

This is both insidious and distorted. Personal and human values are debased; impersonal, mechanical ways of thinking are insisted upon. How could logic, say, which is basically a mind-game, be "intrinsically more important" than ethics, which deals with human rights and needs?

Our own intellectual development is the poorer for this emphasis imposed on the way we think, and so is intellectual life in general. But we continue to sell ourselves out time and time again, consciously or unconsciously. We almost cannot help it, because the idea is so deeply ingrained in us that to be good at something is to be a (pseudo-)man. We are co-opted by patriarchy be-

cause patriarchy has made it almost logically superior to a "feminine mind", because "masculine" here means:

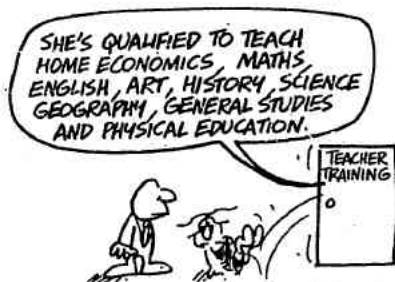
*"having those attributes found most desirable and admirable by society."*  
(i.e. by patriarchal society).

When I look back at my years at university I wonder how much of me was really there at all, and how much of my success I can value as an honest achievement, or worth achieving in the first place. I do not know for sure. I received an honours degree, my parents were proud, and people congratulated me, but I am not honestly proud of myself.

I am aware that many male students also feel very strongly that they have to play insincere games in order to survive as students. But as women in patriarchal institutions and a patriarchal society we own ourselves and our achievements less than men do. Our triumphs, large or small, in Academic belong more to the clowns, sex-objects, pseudo-men that we feel forced to play than to us as living, creative, thinking women. Winning in a male-dominated society is winning for men, a perpetuation of the dominance of men.

This is how we lose our confidence and our self-respect. If we recognise how these things are stolen from us, we can begin the fight to claim them back.

— Jane Nicholls  
*National W, 1977.*



I HOPE SHE'S ON THE PILL.



### HOMOSEXUALS AT A.N.U. and WIMMIN ON CAMPUS

present two film evenings on Sexism and Sexuality and Gay Rights for Men and Wimmin.

#### FRIDAY MARCH 2

First Steps  
Maidens  
Brad  
Showtime  
Pride and Snide  
We aim to please  
They Call Us Chickens  
Bette Davis' Last Try  
Homosexuality — A film for discussion.

#### \* SUNDAY MARCH 4

Cartoons  
Home Movie  
WORD IS OUT

Venue: Haydon Allen Tank  
Time: Friday, 7.30pm Sunday, 5pm  
Donation: \$3 — Employed,  
\$1 — Students and Unemployed.

### A.N.U. HEALTH SERVICE

#### LUNCH-TIME SEMINARS 1979

Theme: Personal Health and Wellbeing

Time: Tuesdays, 1-2pm (bring your own lunch for 12.30-1.00pm)

Location: Group Room 1st floor, Health & Counselling Centre, North Road.

#### 1. Tues. 13 March, INTRODUCTION

Concepts of health; current patterns of mortality and illness; lifestyles, sickness and health; links between health and academic performance.

#### 2. Tues. 20 March, SELF-HELP

Self treatment of minor illnesses and injuries; when to see a doctor; coping with stress; a simple relaxation technique (demonstration).

#### 3. Tues. 27 March, NUTRITION

Changing concepts of nutrition, including vegetarianism; personal analysis of eating habits; methods of food preparation and budgeting (demonstration); dieting.

#### 4. Tues. 3 April, EXERCISE:

Health Laboratory, Kingsley St.Hall, S.W. Corner.  
Concepts of fitness; personal activity patterns; testing heart and lung function (demonstration); planning a fitness programme.

#### 5. Tues. 10 April, ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE.

What is folk medicine; Herbalism; Acupuncture (demonstration).

#### 6. Tues. 17 April, DRUGS

Effects of caffeine, nicotine, alcohol and other drugs; current legal status in A.C.T.; concepts of dependency and withdrawal.

#### 7. Tues. 24 April SEXUALITY

Sexual identity and communication; methods of contraception; unplanned pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases.

#### 8. Tues. 1 May SUMMING UP

Course evaluation; personal lifestyle; follow-up proposals.

The emphasis throughout the seminars will be on personal participation and group interaction. Enrolment for all or part of the course should be made at the University Health Centre, North Road (3598 or 4098) where topic handouts are available. Course limit is 30 persons, but it may be repeated later in the year if there is sufficient interest.



# Clubs and Societies

## MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

The main activities of the club are rock, ice and snow climbing, bushwalking and ski-touring. There are two major rock climbing areas within 50km of Canberra and the Snowy Mountains are close enough for weekend meets. There is excellent bushwalking in the Budawang and in the ranges that ring Canberra.

The club organises a programme of meets for all levels of experience. Introductory rock climbing meets are held in first term and instruction in cross country skiing takes place later in the year.

The club possesses a considerable amount of specialist equipment such as tents, ropes, rucksacks, skis, stores, ice axes etc, which is available for hire at reasonable rates.

There will be a club stall on Market Day (Wed. 28th) when you are invited to come along and chat to some of the members. A series of short films will be shown and you can even join the club if you wish at a cost of \$2.

On Thursday 1st March during the sports afternoon there will be a demonstration of climbing (and probably falling) on the special section of the climbing wall in the Sports Centre. There will be a safety rope and you will be welcome to try your luck.

On Friday 2nd March there will be an introductory rock climbing meet held probably at Wichersblack Crag (it will depend on numbers and available transport). If you would like to come along and sample the sport (you don't have to be a member at this stage) call at the stall on Wednesday for further details.

The recent (April/May, 78) successful expedition to Dunagiri that you read about in the *S.M.H.*, *Melbourne Evening News*, and *The Canberra Times* was an A.N.U.M.C. effort. You could be on the next Himalayan expedition. Think about it.

## A.N.U. CHESS CLUB

presents

- . ANU Chess Championship 1979
- . O-Week Chess Tournament.

The ANU Chess Championship, open to all students and staff of the A.N.U., will be played in first semester at one round per week (starting around the end of March). Playing times will be as flexible as necessary.

The event is to be conducted in three grades: A, B and Social (A Grade being the Championship). Entry fees for A Grade are:

Members of ANU Chess Club: \$2  
Non-members: \$3

These go into the prize fund, to be distributed as follows:

First - 50%  
Second - 25%  
Best Game prize - 25%

A Grade will be an 8-player round robin (qualifying rounds may also be played). B Grade and Social will be round-robin or Swiss, depending on the number of entries, and have no entry fees or prizes.

Please direct entry applications and/or enquiries to Ian Rout, Bruce Hall, as soon as possible (entry fees will be collected later). Entrants for A and B Grades will be assumed to be applying for either (unless otherwise indicated) and are asked to state their experience (if any).

The O-Week Chess Tournament will start in the ground floor Union Foyer around Dam on Wednesday February 28, and be open to anyone who arrives by that time. It will be an all-egre (c 25 minutes each player per game) Swiss tournament finishing around 5pm (with a break for lunch). Entry fee and prize are both zero.

Players unavailable for the whole day may enter as teams of two or more, e.g. playing alternate games, or one playing in the morning and the other in the afternoon, etc.

If you possess a chess clock and/or a reasonable set and board please bring same.

Intending players in either or both tournaments should note that late entries are unlikely to be accepted (even if you have a cute smile or the Vice-Chancellor is your uncle).

I.R.

## THE A.N.U. ATHEIST SOCIETY

The A.N.U. Atheist Society was established in July last year by a group of A.N.U. students and staff who feel that the ugly monster of organized religion should not have a place in the shrine of the intellect, as the University has been called.

We deny the existence of God, not because we can prove that it does not exist (let those who claim that it does, prove it), but because the acceptance of a God who sees what you do, who counts up your merits down here, who will punish you eternally if you do not behave according to the rules set up by its self-appointed ministers, means a denial of that most exclusive definer of man - reason.

Reason and reverie are incompatible. Either you face life as it is (and it is not as barren as preachers say, even without the hope of an after-life), or you will be the sorrowful victim of that legion of dream sellers who throughout history have done nothing for mankind but eat what others produced, suppress those who dared to oppose them, and confuse everybody as a means to establish their fraudulent empires.

You may think you possess your own answer, that's fine. Believe in God if you please, but not in its professionals.



17. WHAT IS THE SPEAKER'S HOBBY?

## SCUNA

What is a SCUNA? Is it a large glass of beer? NO! Is it a yacht? NO! Is it a bird? Well, sometimes. To put yourself out of your misery, read on.

SCUNA is the A.N.U. Choral Society backwards (but we hasten to add in spelling only). Otherwise you will find us a very forward and friendly group waiting to greet you with open limbs and throats. Although our title may be awe-inspiring, we are in fact a very mixed bunch of music lovers with a passion for a very mixed bunch of music.

What does SCUNA do? (Pause for breath.) We sing, act (the fool generally), sing when drunk, sing again, progress for dinner, entertain, sing, go camping and perform. In between all that we sing at Graduation Ceremonies, University Church Services, College Nights, at camp, during dinner, at the pub, in shops, at parties and even in the shower (but not all at once!).

Who is a SCUNA? YOU! Any one of any size, age, sex, race political belief or drinking ability, who enjoys singing music and good times. NO AUDITION! Ideas for this year's activities are a camp/workshop weekend in First Term. This will probably be on the South Coast with a guest conductor. Also in First Term will be a Soiree Musicale (grand name for grand entertainment). Second term will include the highlights of the year's gastronomic, social and musical events - a four course progressive dinner and perhaps SCUNA's first ever MUSICAL. This promises to be the campus event of the year, so if your theatrical passions are aroused, do come and join us. Watch campus and Woroni for further details. The big SOCIAL event is the Interschool Choral Festival, a gathering of the clans from Australia and N New Zealand, which will be held this year in Brisbane and the Gold Coast in late August.

Where and When is SCUNA? During Orientation Week you will find us at Stall Day at the Union, giving a lunchtime concert, and to further aid your digestion we will be serenading at dinner time in the Halls and Colleges. For the rest of the year, we can be found rehearsing in the Dining Room at Burgmann College each Tuesday night starting at 7.30pm, or you can contact Jen Price (just call me Madame President) on 46 5017 b.h. or 47 5604 a.h. or drop a note in the internal mail to Christine Kallir (Secretary) at Bruce Hall.

Now, when you are asked 'What is a SCUNA?' you need no longer look blanc.

## ORIENTATION HANDBOOK 1979

Attention:

ALL NEW STUDENTS AT A.N.U.

If you didn't receive your copy of the 1979 Handbook during Enrolment Week - please call into the Students' Association Office (upstairs in the Union) to collect a copy - it's there waiting for you.

## RUGBY UNION CLUB

1979 training will begin at North Oval, ANU, on Thursday, 1 March at 6pm.

Training throughout the season will be held at 6pm on Tuesday and Thursday evenings at North Oval.

New and intending players can enquire about the Club's activities from:

Des Bingley ext. 3775 Accounts  
David Walsh ext. 3452/ Chancelry  
3211 Annex  
Paul Dodds ext. 4167 Law  
School

The 1979 Club Coach is Pat Garnett.

Those interested in being associated with the Club in other than a playing capacity are also welcomed.

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# Think For Yourself Schmuck !

The All New 1979 Incomplete Guide

To Drug Babuse



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Pharmacologists prefer to categorise drugs in terms of their chemical structure, their effects on cellular biochemistry or physiological systems, and their effects on behaviour. Unfortunately, society chooses to classify drugs according to the prevailing attitudes of the dominant group or more vocal minority. The pervading puritan ethic of our ruling class has directed its moral judgement on recreational drug abuse, making the use, possession or sale of many drugs illegal.

Because of the confusion between pharmacological and legal terminology, there exists considerable misinformation regarding the pharmacology of various abused drug groups. This confusion has led to gross misproportion of the scaling of penalties for the 'criminal' activities of drug use and drug supply. The serious implications (apart from 'crimeless' prison sentences and fines) are that these laws serve only to generate more misinformation and ignorance about abused drugs and their effects. As a deterrent to drug abuse, they are not working.

This article is in no way intended to encourage (or discourage) the use of restricted drugs. It is an attempt to dispel some of the appalling ignorance and illusions surrounding the more commonly abused drugs *sometimes* available in Canberra. More weight has been given to the more physically dangerous drugs, such as heroin, in the hope that it may at least stop *someone* from dying of chronic stupidity this year.

## HEROIN

Structurally, heroin is *diacetylmorphine hydrochloride*. It is manufactured by the diacetylation of morphine, that is, by the action of acetic anhydride or acetylchloride on morphine. Morphine itself is a naturally occurring alkaloid, found in the resin derived from the unripe seed pods of the 'oriental' poppy.

### PHARMACOLOGY (and what it means to the Heroin User)

Heroin is a *narcotic analgesic*. That is, it combines the actions of an analgesic (it relieves pain), a hypnotic (it produces sleep), and a euphoriant (it causes a feeling of well-being or loss of care).

Like the classic narcotic analgesic, morphine, heroin exerts a two-fold analgesic action on the central nervous system: the pain threshold is elevated and the psychological response to pain is altered. Pain may still be present but the individual is now indifferent to it. Analgesia can result in undetected injury or infection, as the normal pain warning signals are suppressed. As one addict put it, "The big thing is you don't hurt. You can walk around with rotting teeth and a busted appendix and not feel it".

Because of its depressant action on the central nervous system, both the rate and depth of respiration are lowered. Respiratory failure and death may result at high dose rates. Cyanosis occurs, in which case the "O.D." individual may turn as blue as her/his levis (an act considered to be extremely bad manners in the company of others, and fatal in private). The greatest chance of accidental overdose and death occurs in the heroin susceptible or non-tolerant individual (such as a beginner or someone who has been off the drug for a while), or the arch-crazy who concurrently injects or ingests a combination of respiratory depressant drugs (such as opiates and/or alcohol and barbiturates). However, due to the extremely variable purity of "street" heroin, overdoses are generally an occupational hazard even to the experienced user. The first time you put a needle in a vein could quite literally be your last time (horror! shock!) if you haven't graduated your dose properly.

In those who are feeling fatigue, worry, tension or anxiety (states which most universities encourage to "keep the little buggers on their toes"), the euphoriant effects of heroin give considerable relief. Most morphine alkaloids are highly effective tranquilizers. Anxiety disappears, as do feelings of inferiority.

"Heroin is the mellowest downer of all . . . . After you fix, you feel the rush, like an orgasm if it's good dope. Then you float for about four hours; nothing positive, just a normal feeling, nowhere. It's like being half asleep, like watching a movie; nothing gets through to you, you're safe and warm. . . . You don't need sex, you don't need food, you don't need people, you you don't care. It's like death without permanence, life without pain."

One becomes somewhat socially and emotionally anaesthetised.

The mood changes or drowsiness due to the hypnotic properties of heroin, lead to self explanatory symptoms. (These are commonly manifested in the individual crashed out, or 'on the nod', when everyone else is raging.)

Histamine release occurs following heroin injection, as may anaphylactic shock, collapse and death (Heavy). The "itchy nose" (and most other itchy parts) syndrome is probably due to histamine release. The general shakes and collapse are also probably related to allergic phenomena. This rather ex-

cessive bodily reaction is not common but sometimes encountered with the greater asthmatic dope-fiend, *Scagus extremis* (As.).

Constipation (oh no! not that!) usually occurs after heroin use due to decreased propulsive activity throughout the gastrointestinal tract. Nausea and vomiting are not uncommon and are more likely to occur if the user is being over active. Antiemetic drugs counteract this effect, but usually the overindulgent person just throws up and the symptoms go away, for a while. Tolerance to these socially undesirable effects rapidly appears, and with repeated use the user stops chucking.

With gross overdose of heroin, general cardiovascular collapse may occur. Otherwise in the tolerant individual there may only be only a slight drop in blood pressure following injection. Fainting may occur if the user suddenly sits up or moves about. Vasodilation of the skin occurs and sweating may be stimulated.

These effects combine to give the chronic heroin user a rather disagreeable social presence. Picture attempting meaningful conversation with a sweating, shaking, itching, pastie-faced, individual who throws up periodically and is on the verge of falling asleep.

### DEPENDENCE AND TOLERANCE

The euphoriant and anxiety relieving properties of heroin account for its psychological dependence liability. (I could now go into a rave entitled 'Why do People Desire the Strongest Narcotic Available?', or whinge about frustration, alienation and disillusionment, etc., not to mention the phenomenon of life on this planet as we perceive it . . . but I won't.) People use heroin because it is the most pleasant of all drugs. Transformation from a bored and brutalised existence to a state of euphoric self-contentment is something the user naturally wishes to repeat, especially if it comes on in a ten second rush. (or as one 'young head on old shoulders' once put it, "This isn't addiction it's just a pretty normal reaction to intense pleasure").

Heroin produces *tolerance* and *physical dependence*: frequent use results in a diminishing response and bodily processes become modified, so that continued administration is required to prevent unpleasant withdrawal symptoms. The potential for physical addiction is usually over-estimated and it would take a couple of weeks of high daily intake to set up a physical addiction of consequence. However, once addicted, unassisted withdrawal is pretty horrendous.

### WITHDRAWAL ("A hit a day keeps the shakes away")

About six to eight hours after the last hit, the heroin dependent person experiences the onset of withdrawal symptoms. These are similar to a bad case of flu. (once described as 'super flu'): runny nose, stomach cramps, diarrhoea, vomiting, muscle cramps, shaking chills or profuse sweating, 'goose-flesh' skin, insomnia and general irritability and jitteriness.

The severity of these symptoms depends on the degree of dependence. The maximum severity develops within 24 to 72 hours after the last dose of heroin, and the more dramatic symptoms subside in five to seven days, even without treatment. More subtle symptoms such as irritability and insomnia may last much longer.

### MODE OF ADMINISTRATION ("in the vein please")

Heroin is usually taken in one of three ways: inhalation (snorting), smoking or injection. Both snorting and smoking are generally inefficient methods of administration (approx. 80% of the drug is destroyed by the high temperature of the burning cigarette), and are more favoured by those experimenting in heroin abuse who can't handle the needle thing. The rush, or 'rapid' onset of drug action characteristic of intravenous injection, does not occur when smoking or snorting. "Skin-popping" (subcutaneous injection) and intramuscular injection are also unpopular and lacking in rush potential. Intravenous injection is by far the most efficient means of getting the drug into your system (so you need less heroin for a good hit!), and the associated orgasmic rush of springtime makes it the preferred method by regular users.



Prior to use, heroin (there's usually *some* in a deal) is diluted, commonly with tap water or vinegar solution (shudder!), in a suitable metal container (usually a classic spoon or bottle cap to retain some traditional character). The containers should be metal as some adulterates are not readily soluble and must be 'cooked'. This solution (?), containing the estimated (?) dose, is drawn up into a hyperdermic syringe. Often, more responsible (?) users will use a piece of cotton wool (a "cotton") believe it or not) to filter out the more gross undissolved impurities. When the larger air bubbles are taken care of, this incredible mixture is ready to inject into the blood stream.

A tourniquet makes the veins stand out clearly, dilates them, making injection easier. The success of 'finding' a vein is demonstrated by a back-flow of blood (relax Igor) into the syringe when the plunger is eased back. Veins, surprisingly enough, wear out. The walls thicken and become more difficult to find (especially with inexperienced vein brutalisation). A vein will come back in time, and by adroit rotation, a junkie can make do.

It is common to find one syringe and needle shared by one or more users. This is partially due to the "social" aspects of communal drug abuse, but more related to the usual shortage of fits.

This incredibly unsterile procedure certainly contributes to the prevalence of both primary and secondary infections (abscesses, transmission of hepatitis, septicaemia, etc.). Attempts are sometimes made to clean the fit between uses, rinsing with alcohol, rinsing with water, rinsing and boiling, and boiling and soaking in alcohol. However, none of these, except perhaps lengthy boiling, would be sufficient to kill hepatitis virus. Usually, the overriding desire to get heroin into the system (where it counts) transcends sterile injection, and if there are more than one person to use the fit it is generally considered too much hassle. Besides there is a certain social bond involved in sharing disease with your friends.

### HEROIN IN CANBERRA ("for the city of a thousand frustrations, heroin is just right".)

As a reflection of the large resident population of users and addicts in the nation's capital, heroin is relatively easy to obtain. However, heroin is a *seller's* drug, or as one dealer said, "You don't sell heroin. It sells itself. While grass is a good capitalist product, heroin is perfect". Also, as buying small amounts (a gram or less?) at 'street level' is putting yourself at the arse end of a long line of ripoffs, Heroin most never represents *value* for money. Of course, if you know someone who knows the right people, or *you* know the right people, a somewhat better deal than usual may be possible.

OK, let us for a moment assume that you are one of those people who insist upon experimenting with heroin, and you have sufficient money to enjoy being ripped-off. You will probably have to buy your adulterated drug through a go-between (unless you already know a dealer), mainly due to the inordinate paranoia of the sellers. The go-between may not, but usually does, take a percentage of your deal to compensate for the risks taken on your behalf and for the use of her/his familiarity with the market situation. This practice is so common as to be generally considered mandatory, and to be expected.

Sellers (who *do* know the *right* people) usually buy a gram for less than \$140, which is divided (sometimes after further cutting) into anything from six to twenty deals, (depending on the quality of the gram), for sale at anything from \$30 to \$40. These deals, or foils (Comalco strikes again), represent at best enough for one hit (for a regular user) and *perhaps* three for a novice with low tolerance (that's you schmuck).

Your go-between then takes say, one third to one half of the deal. So your one or two hits will cost you approximately a week's TEAS (or your dole cheque). Social deviance is not as cheap as it used to be.

### The Sighting.



Thanks go to the Melb. Herald (and Garth too) for making us aware of the dangers of drug use. You can spot them a mile off, can't you?

So, now you have some 'heroin' (this is a crime by the way). Apart from showing it to your friends, it is customary to use it in some way. Smoking and snorting do not require much imagination but if you are more concerned with effect, rather than the social experience, intravenous injection is for you. Finding a fit in this town is not as easy as it seems. Sources range from legal to quite illegal; diabetics, deviant hospital staff, weird chemists, part of the haul from a chemist shop bust, socially irresponsible doctors and nurses, etc. From a sterility point of view an 'all-glass' type syringe is preferable, as it can be boiled without damage, or even better, some disposable 'single use' syringe and needle packages (commonly these are used repeatedly, again because of scarcity). For a short excursion into the netherworld of heroin, a syringe could be borrowed from another user (preferably one who is relatively healthy), but if you intend repeating this performance get your own and try not to share it. Blunt needles are something to avoid as you are more likely to damage a vein, and because it is far easier and less painful with a sharp one. Now, assuming that you have obtained a fit and are still crazed, **IT IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT TO HAVE SOME ESTIMATE OF THE STRENGTH OF THE 'HEROIN' AND HOW MUCH YOU SHOULD USE. IT IS DIFFICULT TO JUDGE THE CORRECT AMOUNT FOR A NOVICE USER AND THE RISKS OF OVERDOSE ARE REAL.** Ask a junkie. NEVER SHOOT UP ALONE, BUT WITH SOMEONE WHO KNOWS WHAT TO DO ABOUT AN OVERDOSE.

an ambulance stationed next door so it is a good idea to use private transport. Heaps of people have also died because they would not get to casualty or a doctor. Doctors are **UNDER NO OBLIGATION TO CALL IN THE POLICE** and usually don't. The **POLICE WILL NOT BE CALLED** unless a person is, in the doctor's opinion, on the verge of shuffling off this mortal coil (in which case it doesn't really matter). At this point the city coroner becomes involved, and the possibility of a manslaughter charge rears its ugly head.

Once at casualty there is not a great deal that a doctor can do for you without knowing what in fact you have OD'd on. So if your friends are thinking of dropping you at casualty and pissing off (as often happens), it is **ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY** that the casualty staff have a complete and accurate idea of what has happened, and, in particular, which drug was involved.

In cases of overdose, staying alive depends on how quickly positive medical treatment can be administered. dah dum!

### PILLS ('mother's little helpers')

#### DOWNERS -

It is necessary to sleep, at least occasionally. A hypnotic is a drug which induces sleep, while sedatives are agents used to relieve tension and anxiety and make sleep more possible. Most sedative drugs are usually the common hypnotic agents given in small doses, and any hypnotic given in a large dose causes general anaesthesia.

erance to barbiturates develops with periodic use, however, this is tolerance to *effect*. There is little or no tolerance developed to the *lethal* effect (OD potential), as occurs with heroin. So with barb-addicts it is often possible to OD just trying to get off.

Over indulgence in alcohol, combined with barbiturate abuse may result in fatal depression of respiratory and cardiovascular systems - you kark it.

It is much more difficult to produce barbiturate addiction than heroin addiction. Once established, however, this dependence becomes far more hazardous to the individual. Barbiturates have perhaps the most dangerous withdrawal crisis of any physically active drug. Abrupt withdrawal of barbiturates is medically more dangerous than heroin withdrawal and usually requires hospitalization. During severe withdrawal from barbiturates, seizures and severe psychosis may occur. Even among patients under intensive care, there is a relatively high incidence of mortality. Heroin withdrawal on the other hand, although extremely uncomfortable, rarely results in death.

Prescription of barbiturates fell out of favour in the early seventies, largely due to the prescription of the non-addictive 'wonder' sleeping drug methaqualone (perhaps better known by the commercial preparation Mandrax, which is methaqualone mixed in a 10:1 ratio with the anti-histamine diphenhydramine HCl). Mandrax was prescribed indiscriminately, with a sigh of relief, as an alternative to the addictive and obviously abused barbs.

The eager distribution of Mandrax by drug-happy doctors, of course, opened the door to the wonders of Mandrax abuse. Mandrax will relieve tension and anxiety and so the drug was much in demand in this country (quite literally on for young and old.)

("I used to go out at night until I discovered Mandrax. The effect is staggering".) A regular, high intake (heaven forbid!) of mandies can reduce contact with the "real" world to a peaceful, cloudy, slurred, stumbling minimum. Mandrax makes a very pleasant but quite dangerous combination with alcohol. A few mandies and several beers (or gin!) and the results are truly terrible (especially for everyone else who is not falling over things.) Mandrax is "safe" up to a certain level (about 1200mg), then it is fatal. You can, however, get used to their effect and find it easy to handle without it seeming possible that a small amount extra may kill you.

As Mandrax increased in popularity amongst the disillusioned and abandoned, the numbers of dribbling zombies on the streets increased. This sort of situation, of course, had to be controlled. The availability of Mandrax has now been restricted and many doctors are actually prescribing barbiturates again. Barbs are becoming easier to obtain (cheaply) and Mandrax more difficult to score. 'Responsible' doctors, however, prefer now to push valium and serepax type tranquillizers for their sleepless and distraught patients. These, of course, have similar abuse potential to Mandrax.



ANS/Farago

#### OVERDOSE (about turning blue and dying)

Now, let us assume that you have been a bit excessive; you have overdosed in fact. If you feel as though you would like to stay alive a while longer, it is advisable to act quickly. If you are with others, have the straightest person available take you to the nearest **HOSPITAL CASUALTY** (which is at Canberra Hospital, on Acton peninsula, if you have OD'd on campus) or to the nearest **MEDICAL ATTENTION** available, **IMMEDIATELY, if not before.** If there is no-one around who can take you, **CALL AN AMBULANCE.** The general idea is, that *if you are thinking of calling an ambulance, it is past time that you fucking well called one.* People have been known to kark it waiting for

Barbiturates are used medically as sedatives, hypnotics, basal narcotics, anaesthetics and anticonvulsants. Amytal (Amobarbital), Dial, Soneryl, Phandorm, Nembutal (Pentobarbital) and Seconal (Secobarbital) are the trade names of derivatives of barbituric acid which are 'short acting' (up to eight hours). Some 'long acting' (longer than eight hours) barbiturates are Veronal (Barbitone) and Luminal (Phenobarbital).

Now, before you check out the contents of your manic parent's medicine hoard, there are a few nasties involved with barbiturate abuse. In many ways barbiturate abuse has more lethal potential than misuse of heroin. It is sometimes easier to overdose on barbs than heroin, particularly if you've become accustomed to them. Like heroin, tol-



## HALLUCINOGENS

(Trip — it could change your life!)

Speed — The variety of legal and illegal stimulants in fantasmagorical. In the sixties, speed was all the rage — everyone was babbling on what were mainly varieties of methamphetamines, obtained on prescription from bent or dumb doctors as appetite suppressants and 'stay-awake' pills. In the late sixties methamphetamine and other amphetamines derivatives (methadrine, dexadrine, amphetamine sulphate, etc.) were banned, and the 'purple hearts', 'black bombers' etc. largely disappeared from the drug abusers available pharmacopea. Long distance truck-driving zombies still use them.

Once described (by someone whose name has been withheld due to acute embarrassment) as an "enjoyable state of hypertension", the physical, mental and social consequences of speed abuse make it a must for those prone to all-night raving. Amphetamines increase the speed of conscious thought, delay fatigue and produce a general feeling of wellbeing when taken orally, and a *pleasant* 'rush' when injected. Speed raves are particularly entertaining as you can talk solidly for hours about absolutely nothing, assuming you can find someone who will sit around, stay awake and listen to high speed drivel.

Prolonged heavy use of amphetamines lends towards bad skin and, occasionally, extreme paranoia and mania. However, death due to overdose is rare. The short-term effects of large doses can include: *profound* overstimulation, acute paranoia, irritability, a sharp rise in blood pressure, fever, chest-pain, *headache*, chills, stomach distress (*incredible* stomach distress). Tolerance to speed develops quickly with heavy use but it isn't addictive in the technical medical sense. However, psychological dependence (or at least an unhealthy preoccupation with the drug) is common with speed freaks. Coming down after a period of amphetamine abuse is sometimes accompanied by bouts of depression and disorientation, but nothing that any sane (?) person could not get over.

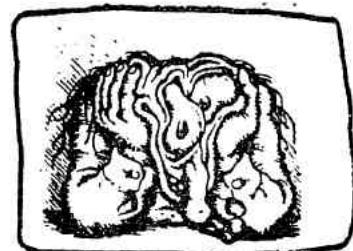
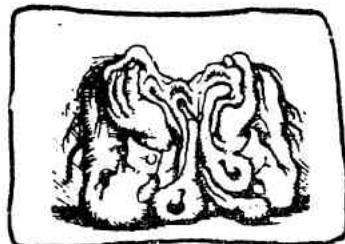
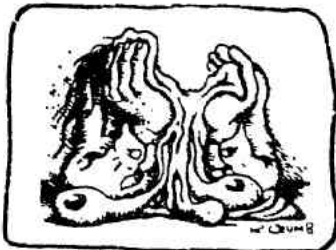
Real speed (methamphetamines) has not been readily available in Canberra for some years, but black market speed (particularly methedrine, the truck drivers' friend) has been showing recently. If you are in a position to score 'speed', insist on dexedrine, methedrine or amphetamine sulphate (beware of travel sickness tablets, diet pills and cold and hay-fever preparations sold as amphetamines). You may buy speed as a white crystalline powder or in tablet form, which may be injected, snorted or gobbled. The white powder may cost anything from 10 to 20 dollars for a 00 cap, and the tablets are a rip-off at 2-3 dollars each.

*Dexedrine*\* comes in tablets: yellow flat and 3/8" diameter, Daprisal 1/2" oblong faintly yellow, Dexten 1/2" diameter yellow, and in capsules: Dexedrine spansules are brown at one end with speckled white and orange contents. Dextyl, pink 5/8" long, Durophet 12.5mg, black and white 5/8" long, Durophet 20 mg ('black bombers'), black 5/8" long, Durophet—M 12.5 mg brown-green 3/4" long, and Durophet M 20mg brown-red 3/4" long. *Drinamyl*\* is a mixture of amphetamine and barbiturate. Used to be made up as 'purple hearts'. Tablets 3/8" diameter whitish-blue. Capsules: green at one end, clear at the other, containing green and white pellets which are designed so as to release the drug slowly at least 10 - 12 hours. The size of the capsule varies according to their strength. *Methedrine*\* is a more rapid and longer lasting stimulant than dexedrine. It comes as 5mg white tablets 5/16" diameter and scored, or in colourless ampules containing 30 mg for injection.

## ACID

More bullshit has been written and spoken about lysergic acid diethylamine (LSD) than any other popularly abused drug (and this is some more). Much of the paranoia and distortion generated by the acid horror stories of the late sixties and early seventies has subsided somewhat, the penalties for possession and use, unfortunately, have not. The concept of LSD as a nebulous, but threatening, communist plot to rot the minds of our youth still lurks (stay a-lurk) in darker corners of the society (like in parliament, where it is deemed essential to protect people from themselves, by putting them in jail).


LSD is in many ways an over-rated drug. People who take acid anticipating revelations based in the duodenum, and extending to the astral plane, will be sadly disappointed, particularly with the standard of trips now available. Attempts to discover the innermost secrets of the cosmos, as they relate to you, usually result in freaking yourself (and everyone with you) right out of your own reality.



With good acid (rare!), visual, auditory and olfactory distortions will occur, and things appear to go all strange on you. Not people changing into pink sheep or winged lizards, as Doonsbury would have it, but subtle differences of texture, shade and colour. Rapid mood changes occur and you may hear odd things from time to time. The ability to appreciate certain types of music is accentuated, and your sense of the ridiculous is much improved.

"Music lifts you into its wavelength, the sublime becomes the ridiculous and your brain begins to ooze out of your earholes"

Acid takes all people in subtly different ways, and it is difficult to describe what it is like to trip on LSD. So difficult to describe in fact, that I won't. The best thing would be to have a trip to discover how it affects you, if of course you are interested. It is advisable, however, to limit the dosage for your first flight, and avoid mind-wanking, or you could just disappear up your own imagination

(go off with a  poof).

Pleasant surroundings definitely make tripping more ascetically pleasing (doing almost everything is usually enjoyable) and tripping with others makes for an interesting social encounter almost anywhere. It is a good idea, and a definite asset, to have someone who will stay straight (uncommon) and awake long enough to deal with the outside world, if the need should arise.

LSD is also a great party-starter and can almost guarantee a successful, if not chaotic, rage.

Whilst 'tripping' it is sometimes possible to think that the strangeness might be in fact permanent. If you find that you are having trouble coping with an altered reality, it is advisable to keep on giggling with the others. Remember that it will really all be over soon, and that nothing is real anyway (?).

Acid comes in an endless variety of forms, including microdots, green triangles, blue moons, blotters, tickets, tiles, red barrels and heaps of other imaginative names I haven't heard of or haven't been thought of yet. All, however, are small and of material which is capable of absorbing the tiny microgram dosage required. 'Trips' have been readily available in the A.C.T. for some time and are usually easy to score (your friendly neighbourhood marihuana dealer may carry them as an occasional treat). The chances of them having anything remotely to do with LSD are pretty slim, and you are probably buying MDA (an amphetamine based hallucinogen resembling mescaline in structure) or some other form of speed. The amount of LSD actually in a 'trip' has fallen considerably over the years.

Truly cosmic experiences are now very hard to come by (when was the *last* time you found Nirvana on acid?). Good acid does appear now and then (once every blue-moon), but you can spend a lot of sleepless nights, not to mention money, searching for the Haight-Ashbury experience. 'Trips' in Canberra cost anything from five to ten dollars, depending on the strength of the dose (one-way, two-way, no-way etc, return fare excluded) and who is ripping you off.

Contrary to popular belief, *real* LSD preparations do not contain any strychnine or speed. While some older acid may have degraded somewhat to more speedy products (such as iso-LSD) that can sometimes cause stomach cramps, most negative reactions to the drug relate not to 'bad acid' but to the user with perhaps a *normally* psychotic personality, or an environment that has nasty associations.

## MUSHROOMS (The hallucinogenic toadstool and you)

Magic-mushrooms are a particularly topical subject at the moment, as the mushy-season once again rears its soggy horrendous head over the Canberra skyline. Cultists are at this very moment holding dark and silly rituals in their quaint hovels, hoping to encourage rain in the Araluen Valley, and ensure a bountiful season. Once yet again mushroomy individuals will emerge giggling onto the Canberra streets, or drive off mountains in south-west N.S.W.

Hallucinogenic (or "magic") mushrooms are mainly species of the *Psilocybe* genus, and related genera (*Stropharia*, *Conocybe*, *Panaeolus* and *Copelandia*). Specifically, they are those members of these genera which contain the active hallucinogenic agents psilocybin and psilocin (psilocybin breaks down to psilocin in the body).

These compounds include in their chemical structures the basic indole group, which is characteristic of most natural hallucinogens (including amides of lysergic acid, of which LSD is a semi-synthetic representative)

The effects of psilocybin are similar to those of LSD, except that psilocybin is much less potent (about 200 times weaker than LSD, by weight). After about 30-60 minutes, following ingestion of psilocybin containing mushrooms, LSD-type symptoms occur. The state of mind induced varies considerably with the dosage taken, the surroundings, the type of mushroom used, the people you are with etc. However, changes in sensory perception, including sensitivity to touch and distortion of tactile sensations, as well as changes in size, shape, colour, and depth of vision with kaleidoscopic variations may be experienced. Both elementary hallucinations, such as the appearance of coloured lights and patterns (mind movies) on closing the eyes and true hallucinations also may occur (depending on dosage).

Many common varieties of toadstools contain potentially lethal toxins, and it is often possible to mistake them for magic mushrooms. The magic mushrooms which appear seasonally in Canberra are usually a *psilocybe* species, aptly referred to as "Blue Meanies" (a name which stems from the blue staining reaction, which occurs when the mushroom is bruised or damaged after picking). Their strength or potency is generally considered much less than another *psilocybe* species found mostly in Northern Queensland (but also in select spots in all states) which are known amongst users as "Gold (or Golden) Tops". To avoid accidental ingestion of toxic varieties of toadstools, it is a good idea to know what type of mushroom you are looking for in a fungus. This involves either having some experienced mushroom fiend show you which types are not poisonous and where to find them, or doing some reading and identifying them yourself (one excellent field guide is "Poisonous & Hallucinogenic Mushrooms", by Richard and Karen Haard, Cloudburst Press, Brackendale and Seattle, 1975).

Freshly harvested mushrooms can be eaten fresh, or dried and stored. For drying mushrooms use a gas or electric oven at a low heat (140° F. or less) for six to ten hours (you could also use a heat lamp or place the mushrooms on a screen and dry over a heating vent). Mushrooms are fully dry when hard to the touch, like crackers, with no spongy feel at all. To preserve the maximum potency, the dried mushrooms should be then sealed in plastic bags from which most of the air has been removed, and the bags stored in an air tight container in the deep-freeze. Dried mushrooms left in the air quickly lose their potency. Fresh magic mushies should not be frozen without drying them first, as freezing them in this condition will turn them into a black goeey mess that defies ingestion. Fresh mushrooms can also be kept in a plastic bag in the 'crisper' tray of the refrigerator for about a week to ten days, but any samples older than this should be eaten or dried to prevent spoilage. Fresh magic mushrooms are infinitely more delicate on the palate than the black, powdered dried fungus, and much more potent. Fresh mushies cooked in an omelette or heated in soup (Campbell's Cream of Magic-Mushroom Soup) are quite tasty, although there is very little that can be done to completely disguise the fact that you are eating something vaguely akin to decaying funk.

If you intend experimenting with magic mushrooms it is recommended that you follow these simple and easy to follow directions:

LAWS FOR THE A.C.T.

December 1978 saw the legislation of the new Poisons and Narcotic Drugs Ordinance in the A.C.T. This draconian ordinance will forever dispel any illusions that Canberra enjoys comparatively lenient drug laws and serves to demonstrate that the legislators and the information sources base their decisions on are far removed from the realities of drug use in the A.C.T.

This legislation does not in any way reflect the bulk of scientific, sociological and legal evidence about drugs nor does it reflect the opinions of the majority of people resident in the A.C.T. This ordinance, imposed from above is aimed at the oppression of a section of society and is not unrelated to the erosion of civil liberties now occurring in many facets of Australian life.

In the section relating to cannabis; possession or use of any amount less than 25 grams remains at a \$100 fine but possession of more than 25 grams (one deal) incurs a penalty of \$2000 and/or two years imprisonment. The supply or sale or possession for sale to another of any amount now incurs a penalty of \$4000 and/or 10 years imprisonment.

If a person has more than 100 grams of cannabis or (would you believe this) two grams of resin, i.e. two caps of oil or half a deal of hash they are taken as having it for sale unless they prove otherwise. In other words, if you decide that in these-times of dope droughts you will stock up with grass or hash for the winter you are liable for ten years in jail!

As for other drugs e.g. amphetamine, methadone, methylamphetamine, pethidine, heroin, LSD, psilocin and psilocynin, i.e. magic mushrooms: Possession or self-use or administration to another (any amount) incurs a penalty of \$2000 and/or two years imprisonment. Supply or sale or possession for sale of any amount incurs a horrific penalty of \$100,000 fine and/or 25 years in jail. This exceeds the penalty for murder. Judging from this scale, if capital punishment were reintroduced dealing in drugs other than cannabis would probably incur the death penalty.

As in the case of cannabis; possession of above specific amounts e.g. two grams heroin, methylamphetamine, methadone, amphetamine; 0.002 gram LSD; 7.5 grams mescaline; 10 grams pethidine; 0.1 gram psilocin or psilocybin is taken to be for sale unless the person in possession proves otherwise.

Again, if you decide to stock up or buy bulk because it's cheaper you are liable to 25 years in jail. Furthermore, if after a visit to the coast you return to Canberra with a big bag of magnificent magic mushrooms to share with your friends you could also face a 25 year sentence.

Who ever heard of a mushroom dealer? But this makes no difference to legislators who being heavily influenced by the police, feel that harsher penalties, more police raids and drug convictions will solve the 'drug problem'.

We have yet to see the extent to which the ordinance is applied but we do urge all people who get busted to fight in the courts for their civil rights.

Clearly with such draconian penalties, particularly for the chemical drugs it will become increasingly likely that the cost of all drugs on the black market will rise and that the controllers of the drug trade will find it necessary to take more forceful methods to protect their liberty.

Clearly the effects of this ordinance will in no way contribute to the solution of the so called 'drug problem'.

Ashley Roach  
Marijuana Action Group.

1. Carefully graduate your dosage day by day (especially if you are unused to tripping, or are blessed with a delicate stomach) beginning with one or two and building up to whatever you think you can handle;

and 2. Eat them on an empty stomach, since a full tummy tends to dilute the effects.

Many of the comments on the LSD experience are relevant to tripping on magic mushrooms, although once again it is advisable to try them yourself if you intend exploring further the hallucinogenic mushie, and how it relates to your own karma.

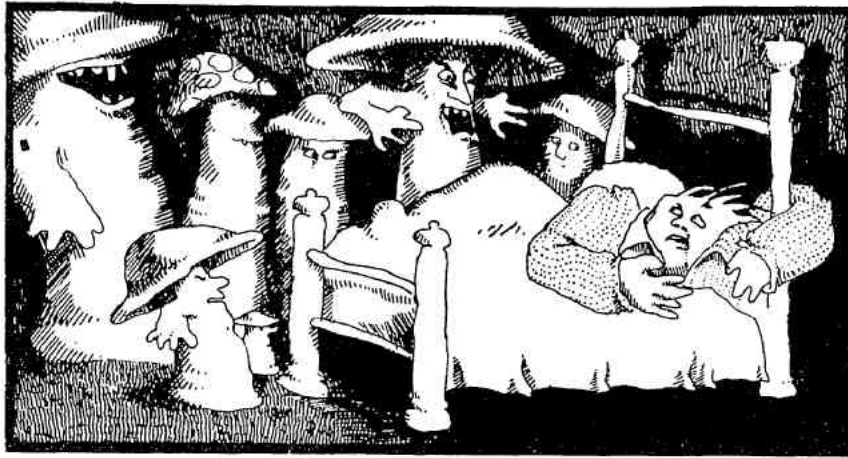
Despite popular belief, possession of psilocybin or psilocin containing mushrooms is an offence (several Canberra people were charged last year). In addition, if your collection contains more than 0.1 grams of active ingredient, you are technically considered to be trafficking in an illegal hallucinogen. The maximum penalties are then the same as for dealing heroin, for example (Schedule 12: 25 years or a fine not exceeding 100,000 dollars or both). Bad craziness.

COCAINE

"A couple of hits of cocaine made me feel like a new person. The only problem was the first thing the new person wanted was a couple of hits of cocaine."

Cocaine is a white crystalline powder extracted from the coca plant which grows in South America (the leaf is chewed by the *alta plana* indians of Ecuador and Peru because it imparts a feeling of well-being). It is both an anaesthetic and stimulant—the general effect is one of luxurious well-being, following a short euphoric rush (significant euphoria is produced by doses of cocaine from 13 to 130mg). However, 'real' cocaine is as rare as civil rights (and twice as expensive) in this country.

Cocaine can be eaten, snorted, injected or "rubbed on sensitive parts of the body". Frequent snorting of crystalline cocaine does considerable damage to the nasal and sinus membranes (the sharp crystals literally slash the membranes to mince meat) and after years of use (unlikely) the partition between the nostrils may be totally eaten away (yet another drug horror story!). It is practically impossible to OD by snorting, as it is just too painful to snort that much of what feels like finely ground glass. The euphoric effects of coke wear off



in about 15 minutes (that 'spring-time in the Andes feeling'), but the drug's presence in the body does not. Anyone injecting enough cocaine to stay high, is a prime candidate for an OD (not to mention financial disaster). A rather nasty sight by all accounts.

Most of what passes for cocaine in Australia is speed mixed with cocaine related anaesthetics (novacaine, procaine, lidocaine). These have the anaesthetic effects but not the lift of

coke. Perhaps a few grains of genuine coke, if you're lucky, and some milk sugar (mannitol, lactose) for bulk. Buying coke is an expensive rip-off in Australia, and unless you are buying medicinal liquid ampules for injection; it is most unlikely that you are getting much real cocaine. Double O capsules sell for anything from 20-30 dollars and grams go for around 80, when available.



MARIJUANA & HASHISH

Smoking dope is no longer a big deal (right!), and now so common as to be almost mandatory (who are your friends?). Like acid and speed, dope is considered by some to be a boring relic from the sixties. Unless you're absolutely flagrant you are not even likely to get busted for it any more, but it pays to keep on your toes. Drug trends have changed

greatly, particularly with the recent shortage of good grass and hash (please note: hashish is simply a different form of dope from grass, and not a more sinister or stronger one). The placid, contented dope smoker is becoming less common. Getting totally obliterated on a cocktail of drugs, including cheap (?) legal alcohol, has become the norm.



"... but, seriously..."



## The Amazing Athol reviews

"PUBLIC IMAGE"

..... Public Image Limited

The Sex Pistols' break-up that left the late Sid Vicious a hopeless case also gave rise to one of the most cynical and bitter, yet terrific albums that The Amazing Athol has ever come across. The former Johnny Rotten, now known by his original surname of Lydon, vents his anger and disgust at a number of targets with devastating power. Understandably, a lot of the vitriol has to do with this treatment by the media and by the Pistols' management. The first two tracks, 'Public Image' and 'Lowlife' deal with these themes in a totally arresting way. The lyrics are heavy enough; 'You never listen to what I say, You only see me by the clothes I wear' howls Mr Lydon in the title track — true enough. Malcolm "it was all a big joke but the lads cocked it up by recording a great album "McLaren is referred to as an 'egomaniac traitor' in 'Low life'. However, it is the music itself that gives this album most of its awesome power. The treatment consists of very solid bass and automaton drumming, overlain with jangling, manic guitar, all of which sounds like it was recorded in a culvert or a large parking station. For once, a band has recorded and produced their *own* sound, devoid of studio frills and additions: 'Public Image Ltd. would like to thank absolutely no-one, thank you'.

The remainder of the album is a strange mixture of distaste and concern. 'Religion' for instance is a scathing attack on the church, while 'Annalisa' is based on the true case of a girl who was locked away for some ridiculous period by her parents, who believed that she was possessed. A strange combination.

There seems to be a strange Reggae element in P.I.L.'s music. Recently, the band (minus Lydon) recorded a single with well-known London Rasta, Don Letts. And you thought that the New-wave/Reggae crossover was a load of bull, huh? The bass player, Jah Wobble (oh what a giveaway) has also put out a strange reggae-oid disc entitled 'Dreadlock don't deal with wedlock'. Hearing is believing. You may also be interested in the fact that guitarist Keith Levine was a member of the Clash before they made it. Isn't that fascinating. If at all interested in contemporary (read 'modern') music, you owe it to yourself to at least listen to this record. You may well be surprised. A friend of mine who is notorious for detesting such music did, and it changed his entire life. O well, a bit anyway. And lastly, the question that is on the tip of your smelly tongues — "Is it the same old Rotten Lydon we used to know?" — — — No, it isn't...

Three more views of J. Lydon: The Artist As James Boyce impersonator; As Southern Belle; As his Mum knows him.



## 2XX 16 HOUR CONCERT

Canberra's Community Radio Station 2XX invites you to a marathon Concert that will be held in the grounds of the A.N.U. The Concert will take place during Canberra Week and begins at 10.00am on Saturday March 10, running for 16 hours winding up at around 2.00am on Sunday morning. It will be held on Willows Oval, adjacent to Barry Drive.

An essential aspect of the Concert is that it will be completely free. Apart from the music, the perimeter of Willows Oval will be used as a site for the display and sale of locally made handicrafts. Stall space is free and everyone is invited to make use of the market area so as to turn the Concert into a Community Fair.

This Concert provides a chance for all music lovers to see, in one day, a large spectrum of Canberra's popular music. The Union will open its Bistro Bar downstairs which will provide facilities for barbecues, food and alcohol.

A great time is promised for all comers . . . Involve yourselves in the Gala! Any enquiries can be directed to 2XX by phoning 49 4512 or 49 4108.



### BAND

- 10.00 THE YOUNG DOCTORS
- 11.30 PAVERTY
- 1.00 CACTUS JACK
- 2.30 NITEFLIGHT
- 4.00 CHOKE BROS.
- 5.30 COBRA
- 7.00 MYXO
- 8.30 REVEREND SPORRIDGE
- 10.00 STEAM WHEELIN
- 11.30 IN ONE EAR
- 1.00 BIG WHEEL AND THE HUBCAPS

### ACOUSTIC PERFORMERS & RAFFLE TIMES

- 11.15 Reverend Sporrige
- 12.45 Mick Choke
- 2.15 Raffle
- 3.45 Dave Kane
- 5.15 Mick Choke & Steve Tebbett
- 6.45 Raffle
- 8.15 Steve Tebbett
- 9.45 Andrew Sames & Paul Brosgarth
- 11.15 Raffle, Andrew Sames & Paul Brosgarth



J. Lydon (vcls), Jim Walker (drums), Jah Wobble (bs), Keith Levine (gtr).

MUSIC



Canberra is graced with two commercial cinema "chains" — if a chain is four cinemas each. Canberra Theatres Pty Ltd. owns the Civic Cinemas, the Capitol in Manuka and the Starlight Drive-In on the Federal Highway at Watson. This company is a subsidiary of the large American owned Greater Union Organisation which is probably the largest cinema chain in Australia. This means that these cinemas usually show the very popular, long running American movies, e.g. "Grease".

The other cinemas are part of the small Australian independent company,

the Centre Cinema Group. Apart from running the Centre Cinema they also run the Boulevard Red and Blue and the Sun-down Drive-In on the Cooma Road at Narrabundah. They also own half the Academy Twin Cinema in Paddington. To the writer's knowledge this is the oldest independent Australian cinema group and Canberra is quite lucky to have it. We could have another multinational like Village Cinemas showing rubbish similar to Civic's. Instead the Centre Group show many European, Australian and classic films.

Both chains show Sunday specials which are usually great films about ten

years old. Centre Cinemas show Friday Night Super Shows at 11.00pm. You pay \$2.00 and get sandwiches, coffee and a good movie. You're not really a student until you've been to a Super Show.

Both Cinema groups offer student concession Monday to Thursday, on production of a Union Card. At Civic and Capitol this is \$1.75 — half adult price, the Centre Group charges \$2.00.

Like most modern cinemas nearly all of Canberra's cinemas have horrible decor. Cinema designers seem to be taken with the beauty of red, blue and purple. The Capitol, being older is reasonable. The Centre Cinema looks

okay but wait till you try the seats.

A last point of warning. Programmes at these cinemas can change very fast. Due to the small Canberra population films are given only one week to prove themselves. If the crowds don't roll in, the programme is changed. So don't decide to leave seeing a film 'till next week — it might not be on.

(Next issue — The cheaper better alternative — non-commercial cinemas.)

Alan Butterfield.

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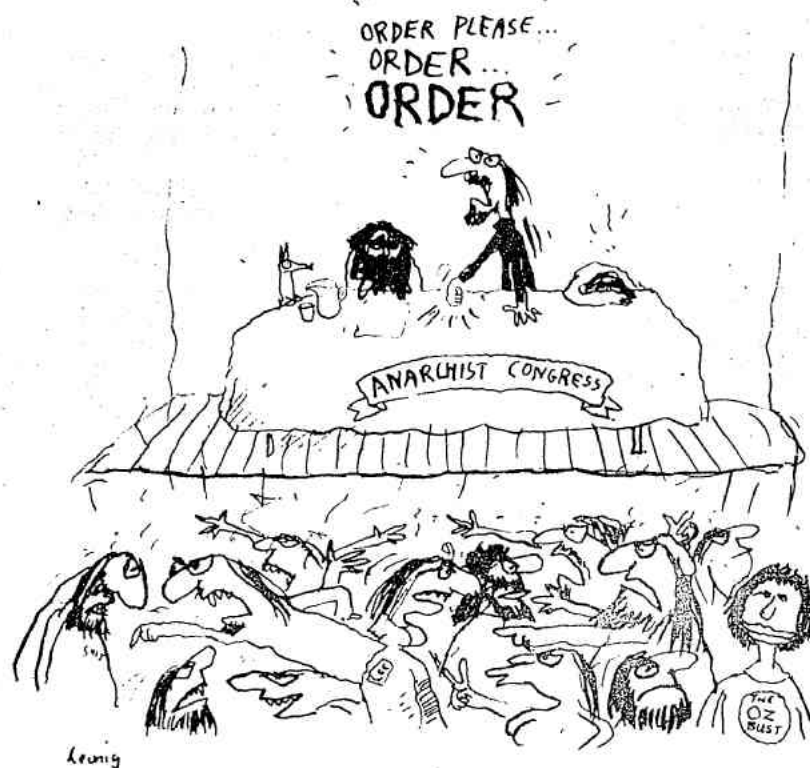


# AUS Lives; Libs Fucked

The Annual Council of the Australian Union of Students (A.U.S.) held at Monash University in January 1979, was as usual an event which no one who was there will forget in a hurry. Indeed, A.U.S. Council has been known to send more than just a cold shiver down the spine of many a hardened politician. The event is always the source of much interest from such notables as the mass media, conservative governments and various clandestine right-wing groups (who prefer to be called "moderates").

Very few organisations of the size of A.U.S., with over 230,000 members and an annual budget approaching \$500,000 would dare submit themselves to an event, like Council, which has been described as "a vicious yearly bloodletting", with all its conspiracies, associated unholy alliances, and character assassinations. A.U.S. Council, with all its traditions and complex rules, is somewhat reminiscent of a Medieval jousting match. After a long and drawn out battle the vanquished traditionally accept exile into the wilderness or political death. For the last two years the defeated have been amongst the right-wing student groups. [consisting of the Australian-Liberal Students' Federation (A.L.S.F.), the National Civic Council (N.C.C.) the National Party (N.P.) and the right-wing A.L.P.s]. In recent years none of these groups have ever been able to win gains by democratic means within the Union, except of course for the brief and ill-fated N.C.C. take-over of much of the Queensland Region of A.U.S. However, not satisfied by using the democratic processes in existence they have long conspired with conservative governments, the police and the courts to sabotage the workings of A.U.S., but in the main the right-wing student groups have also been thwarted in this area once more. Indeed, at the 1979 Council the right-wing once again filed miserably in its attempt to influence the supreme policy making body of the national student union, just as they have failed to gain the support of a majority of students on all but a few campuses throughout Australia. This quite apparent failure has come after two years of staged secessions, constant political attacks, bad press and writs, as well as legislation by Liberal Country Party Governments both state and federal. It seems that as a result of these clandestine activities the right-wing, attracted by the hope of power, have got themselves badly burned and showed up their Machiavellian tactics for what they really are, as we shall see later.

The Australian Union of Students has a long history stretching back to 1937, it has constituted a long standing and integral part of the education process within this country and it is clearly not an easy institution to try to dismantle or destroy (as its opponents have been quick to find out). The Union grew out of a need by students, because of their depressed and disadvantaged circumstances, to defend their own rights and interests. This role has always been recognised as central to its philosophy and over the years the Union has developed into a finely balanced example of democracy. The pinnacle of the Union's democratic decision making process is Annual Council at which directly elected delegates from 65 campuses (out of a national total of over 80) and 14 associated groups are present to debate or vote on policy matters and expenditure etc.



The last Council while it was similar to others Councils with the gruelling days and nights of non-stop paperwork, debate and voting, was pervaded by an unusual air of cohesion and purpose. Indeed, if 1977-8 were watershed years for A.U.S. the 1979 Council saw a new consolidation and rebuilding.

The large majority of delegates were keenly aware of the importance of continuing the fight by student organisations to maintain their right to organise and to make their own decisions

## — Media Meddling and Liberal — Politicians

The feeling was that a national union is the only means available to students to exert pressure on an establishment that can hire professional press agents and lobbyists, plant unsympathetic magazine and newspaper stores, (notable examples are *Quadrant*, *The Bulletin* and Murdoch's *Australian*), take out newspaper ads and buy television time, make large financial contributions to parties and groups (such as the N.C.C. and A.L.S.F., with well-off patrons like Lang Hancock, Mal Fraser and Bob Santa Maria) and in general use their position and wealth to get their point of view across. Council's view was confirmed, because right from the start this powerful machine was set in process in an attempt to distort and denigrate the affairs of the Union. At the forefront of the "A.U.S. bash" were of course *The Bulletin* and *The Australian*, on the second day of Council the former publication claimed that the "moderates" were poised to take control of A.U.S., a rather premature claim to say the least which turned out completely incorrect and a little misleading when one thinks that these supposed moderates were in fact the Liberals (maybe Attila the Hun was a moderate after all). *The Australian* never to be outdone by its competitors made the completely outrageous and unfounded claims that A.U.S. had pledged \$1800 to the Palestinian Liberation Organisation (the fact is that A.U.S. has no policy on the Middle East) and stated further that A.U.S. faced imminent collapse. The *Melbourne Herald*, another supposedly responsible and even handed newspaper, called the leadership of A.U.S. "a

ratbag" element and claimed that A.U.S. Council was controlled by an "irrational few", it is a well known fact that the majority of students in all states support A.U.S. and its continued existence, voting figures throughout the country have substantiated this on numerous occasions. Claims that A.U.S. "attacks freedom" and especially "freedom of choice", both by the *Herald* and by Liberal politicians, are a mere smokescreen to hide the confirmed fears of these people that the union is indeed democratic in its structure and for this reason they know that they still remain unable to infiltrate or take over A.U.S. by such democratic means. So A.U.S. remains the whipping boy of these powerful forces, because it has refused to remain silent when it thought that all was not well with the education system, or the way the economy is going or unemployment, one begins to wonder whether the conservatives are not doing more to destroy freedom than those groups they accuse of doing just that. It seems that there are people in high places who think it is "un-Australian" and "irrational" for students to become involved in the political process. They will begrudgingly concede that all students are part of society but to them this does not necessarily mean that the latter should have any choice of utilizing their democratic rights to have any say and make any contribution to society. One could be excused for forming the opinion that what the conservatives fear most is that critical analysis and debate are both harmful and damaging, especially when they bear unfavourably on their own performance and public standing.

## — COULD IT ALL BE A — CONSPIRACY

Council spent a great deal of its time discussing the attacks on A.U.S., and while it was apparent from the second day onwards that the fifth columnists within the union were clearly routed and on the run, delegates were aware that for a number of reasons and not least the keen interest in Annual Council already shown by the media and people in high places, that there is every possibility that the outside attacks on A.U.S., in the courts and parliament will continue. One must

not be so foolish as to underestimate the cunning of the right wing groups in this context, in spite of the fact that even the most fanatical of their supporters now realise their impotency within the union and their apparent inability to gain control of A.U.S. by democratic means (as we have already noted). However, this has only strengthened their resolve and will in the future depend much more on their friends in high places, firstly, for money to initiate court actions against the Union and secondly, support for legislation designed to severely restrict its funding base as well as making membership illegal (as in the A.C.T.). The whole business started in the case of *Clark vs. Melbourne University, its S.R.C. and A.U.S.*, in which Justice Kaye in a clearly political judgement, decided that the University's collection of a compulsory service and its subsequent expenditure by A.U.S. on such "non educational" causes as the Black Resource Centre, The Timor Information Service, the Malayan Student News Service and the anti-ASEAN campaign were beyond the powers of the Constitution of the Union. One thing that Justice Kaye was adamant about was the right of Melbourne S.R.C. to pass money onto A.U.S., a principle which Malcolm Fraser is clearly abrogating in his Federal legislation. Fraser is trying to make payments to A.U.S. from compulsorily collected fees illegal which is tantamount to prescribing the Union. He seems to be at variance with the courts of this issue and one is reminded of a former Liberal P.M. Bob Menzies and his attempt many years ago to make the Communist Party illegal which was also rejected by the courts. The *Clark Case* has been followed by a number of writs taken out by Liberal Students, in the A.C.T., S.A., and N.S.W., they seem to have a ready access to monetary resources and have spent tens of thousands of dollars already on this campaign. Nonetheless, all has not gone well for them and in the case of *Farrell vs. U.N.S.W. and its S.R.C.*, Justice Rath decided in favour of the University and its student organisation and A.U.S., the Liberal zealot, Michael Farrell was ordered to pay costs of several thousand dollars a sum which he said he could not pay, after a short time. Lo and behold the money appeared but no one is saying from where. It also appears that Michael Yabsley is having a second thoughts about some of his action against the A.N.U., which should go to court sometime in the near future. This brings us onto the next stage of the outside attacks on A.U.S., which has taken the form of legislation by Liberal/Country Party Governments in Western Australia, Victoria and then the A.C.T. The first government to move in this area was the Court government in W.A., who passed legislation restricting the funding of local student guilds and virtually prescribed the national union. The student guilds in this State, however, were still able to pass money to A.U.S. from consolidated revenue. The Hamer Government followed suit in Victoria, at Melbourne University, but the University administration have turned up their noses at the government and are collecting a voluntary fee anyway. The Fraser Government has tabled legislation in the A.C.T. for the A.N.U. and C.C.A.E., the only tertiary institutions they have under their direct control. The A.N.U. Administration have already stated their support for compulsory membership and the continued funding of A.U.S. (AT the

# AUS

time of writing this article the Federal legislation has not been voted on).

In each of these cases it is firstly claimed that the legislation gives students with "conscientious objections" the right to opt out of joining student organisations, such as the local S.R.C., Student Guild or Student Association as well as A.U.S. However, the fact remains that student unions are the only unions in the country to recognise the rights of those who object to joining on grounds of conscience. A.U.S. recognises objections on "insuperable moral or religious grounds" and at A.N.U. there is also a conscientious objection clause written into the University's fees rules. Secondly, the bills purport to give students "freedom of choice" which is another quite bogus claim. If the conservatives were sincere about freedom of choice why don't they let students decide democratically whether they want their organisations to be made voluntary? The answer is that they know they would lose — just as the few Liberal students behind this legislation have always failed to win support for the idea of voluntary unionism on campus (For example in 1977 the A.N.U. Liberals at the annual A.N.U.S.A. elections campaigning on this issue, managed to gain less than 28% of the vote).

## — ARE THE CONSERVATIVES ABOUT TO CRACK

This whole cynical and vicious campaign, like its counterpart on campuses and within A.U.S., has also failed to achieve much in real concrete terms for the Liberals and their friends. The continued lies, distortions, witch-hunts and political assassinations have generally been seen for what they are and in many ways the whole campaign has backfired. The Liberals have effectively alienated the majority of students; which was evidenced at Annual Council this year and has been evident on campuses for sometime (for example, at A.N.U. in 1978 students voted six to one against the government's actions). Students have managed to gain the support of various influential groups; the trade union movement, realising the implications of legislating against unions has shown support (for example in the A.C.T. the Trades and Labour Council pass unanimous resolutions of support for students and on August 15 last year a combined rally was held outside the national parliament to protest against

anti-student unionism laws, as well as the budget, unemployment, Aboriginal land rights and uranium mining), the Australian Labor Party both locally and nationally have also pledged their support for students (for example in the A.C.T. the A.L.P. passed a motion unanimously supporting student union autonomy), even the Australian Vic-Chancellors' Committee local Administrations and numerous influential academics have expressed opposition to the legislation because it infringes on the autonomy of tertiary institutions. In addition, to widespread community opposition to government legislation there would seem to be ever widening rifts developing within ranks of the conservatives on this whole question. Already the Hamer Government in Victoria have had second thoughts about State wide legislation (along the Melbourne lines) and if the A.L.P. should win this year's state elections, then the legislation will go no further and the *Melbourne Amendment Act 1978* will be repealed. Federally, many back-benchers and even the Minister for Education, Senator Carrick, who has gone on record as saying that such matters should be left to students and Uni administrations to handle, and are having second thoughts about the A.C.T. legislation. Fraser has already backed down on his veiled threat of forcing the Labor States into passing student union legislation by amendments to the *States Grants Act*. Depending on the continued application of pressure in a variety of places, especially on campuses by students and staff, the conservatives may be defeated after all. In the early 1970s similar legislation was defeated by a widespread student campaign, in Britain. Maybe just as N.U.S. students in Britain defeated Margaret Thatcher's (the then Minister for Education) anti-student legislation, so too, with unification around the policies of the union and mass action on the campuses, Malcolm Fraser and John Leslie Carrick can also be defeated.

## — A.U.S. ON THE OFFENSIVE

Much of what we have already discussed has concentrated on the attacks external and internal which form a background to Annual Council in 1979. These final remarks will concentrate on Council itself, enough has been said about a group the Vice-President of A.L.S.F. has called, the unblushing assassins of A.U.S." a strange

group of bedfellows who up until now haven't been all that successful. The Council had to deal with the realities of the Union's position in 1979; with diminished resources (less than half the funds of a couple of years ago), a deficit budget and a continuing battle to be waged against powerful forces; as well as with the demands of its education, cultural, national women's and Aboriginal programs for their share of the available funds. Education remained the most important priority in 1979. Campaigns especially around the areas of student allowances, assessment and graduate unemployment, will be important areas for A.U.S. Moves such as the re-establishment of the Media Department, and a new national student newspaper are to be welcomed and can only improve the Union's position. A continued emphasis was placed by delegates on issues which affect the lives of us all, including unemployment, civil liberties, uranium mining and the oppression of blacks and women in our society. This emphasis was reflected in decisions such as those to establish the new position of Unemployment Organiser and the one whereby \$18000 will still go to supporting a school for underprivileged Aboriginal children. Moves to organise an Asian Students Conference, must also be applauded, it is about time that there was some solidarity between Australian students and those in S.E. Asia. Six thousand dollars was also allocated for a campaign on the right of students to organise and the need for autonomous compulsory student unions. Delegates saw the need for grass roots organisation and motivation at the campus level and the need for students to become a more active and effective part of the Australian political reality. Speaking from personal experience these are not easy goals to achieve and it will take a lot of bloody hard work, nonetheless, with the present mood of students on Australian campuses and the necessary toil and sweat, success is not unattainable. One disappointing feature of Council was that major structural changes to A.U.S. to counter the effects of the legislative and judicial onslaughts were defeated. These constitutional alterations to allow for individual membership of the Union, did not get the required two-thirds majority of the vote (although they had the support of around 60% of delegates) because the

N.C.C., Liberal and other anti-union forces wanted to block them. However, such blatant obstruction did nothing positive for their cause and indeed has only damaged their credibility even further.

The remarkable thing about A.U.S. Council was that the broad left, including the various socialist parties and other delegates of many different political tendencies, including the social democrats, showed more than ever an ability to coalesce on important issues. The new executive, elected on the final day of Annual Council, reflects a broad left dominance. The 42nd President of A.U.S., Chris Hobson was elected by 114 to 74 with 32 informal votes. The Education Vice-President, Mark Burford, the Finance Committee Chairperson, Graham Russell, the Women's Officer, Corina Veal, and the new Media Officer John Sandeman were all elected with similar majorities. The executive would appear to be a more impressive and capable line-up than their predecessors.

Finally, Annual Council 1979 as well as the events of 1978 would seem to indicate that A.U.S. is here to stay as an effective union representing students, in spite of its new circumstances, and that the Union will not easily be sent to an early grave. The fact remains that A.U.S. has survived many concerted attacks in the last couple of years but this year's Council reflected a very strong feeling within the Union to move off the defensive and onto the offensive. For the first time in what seems an eternity there was a real unification of many political tendencies around not only the question of the defence of the Union but also on the positive policies in education and on major national and political questions. From the very first day of Council this unity laid the basis for much positive debate, as well as serving to isolate the anti-A.U.S. student forces who have shown themselves to be uninterested and unwilling to become involved in the constructive work of the union. For the position of the national student union to continue to improve in this coming year more students at the campus level must take up the fight.

Peter Cardwell.

## BRUCE THE BARBARIAN



On January 20th of this year, 'A Guide to University Entry - the Tertiary Funnel', by Robert Milliken and David Hickie, appeared in *The National Times*. Certain responses to the article by Colin Plowman, Assistant Vice-Chancellor, and Peter Stewart, Dean of Students, throw light on the situation at A.N.U.

The article suggests that universities are inflexible places, and that they are not adaptable to planning for the job market. Several contentious statements are made by the authors.

Is entry to universities, in fact, getting tougher? The view at A.N.U. is that it is not. Evidence is given for this in that the Economics Faculty has lowered its entry requirements for 1979. This is true enough, there are however certain other motivations to do with retaining funding based on student numbers, involved here. Milliken and Hickie affirm that professional courses are showing a decrease in applications. This is not true for the Law Faculty here, or for the Forestry Department. Whether or not those applying for professional courses here regard them as job-tickets, the attractiveness of these courses does not seem any less than that of the so-called general courses in Arts and Science, which Milliken and Hickie think are becoming more popular.

If, in fact, there is a trend towards employers favouring more general qualifications, this is probably more likely to be because graduates are being increasingly employed in positions where they previously have not, been, as a result of insufficient job openings in most fields. It's a case of employers thinking they can pick the best for a lower salary, rather than them favouring anything education-wise at all. Presently, the job market is flooded with 'over-qualified' people from all levels of education. The only really noticeable tertiary response to this as yet would appear to be the cut down in the number of teacher training courses.

Milliken and Hickie emphasise that no universities have attempted to restructure their courses for the job market. Perhaps. One would seriously question however, how they could do this - without rebuilding themselves as organs of government economic policy. And it is that policy and the well-established attitudes of employers to the employed which have produced the present stagnant job

market. Do the authors want *this* kind of structural change, or do they merely want universities to appear to be more socially accountable? Peter Stewart's comment was that universities are the product of the societies they are in, that is, to that extent they are socially accountable by definition. The 60s and 70s have been periods of extensive social change, which will influence the place of tertiary institutions. The Social response to universities, in the way of enrolments, is not clearly falling, as stated by Milliken and Hickie. Table 3.1 in Vol. 2 of the Tertiary Education Report for 1979-81 would seem to indicate that social demand in the university sector has flattened out after an

The rest were under-subscribed, and in the cases of La Trobe, Macquarie, Newcastle, Flinders and the Australian National University, the shortfalls were sharp enough to make the universities worried. The decline seems certain to continue this year.

There are two main reasons. The proportion of school leavers of university entry age has ceased to rise, which means the universities' traditional market is not expanding. Many universities are trying to make up the loss by taking more "mature age" people, and in Arts faculties more than 35% of students are now aged over 25.

At the same time, a marked decline in re-enrolment of the...

ities strongly based on education as La Trobe in Melbourne, which is increasing its number of places in education at the rate of 10 per cent a year.

The great debate in tertiary education is whether universities should be seen as a source of job training in some areas. Most universities are not doing this.

incline, but is not falling. The increase in the number of mature students enrolling would also appear to be a clear indicator of social demand.

Graduate unemployment aside, those in the university would appear to see 'person-power' planning as a public issue - not feasibly utilised within universities when planning courses (Person-power planning being the production of specific graduates for specific jobs). Certainly this is true - but it is a public issue with respect to the present economic system, its values, and its attitudes to the work-force. As a result, Milliken and Hickie's contention that universities are inefficient and inflexible places would appear to be misdirected. They are inflexible because of the reluctance of administrators to make extensive changes, because of problems of staff tenure and certain academic beliefs about their sanctity. They are now even more inflexible because of restrictions in government funding. But, removing the inflexibility by way of adopting 'person-power' planning would not solve the problem of unemployment in a manipulated and mismanaged economy.

Perhaps, as Milliken and Hickie say, universities tend to ignore graduate unemployment. Maybe this is fair enough, youth unemployment is certainly worse. They do however hold a belief in the validity of the training they give people, which ought to be re-considered with respect to the chances of those people achieving satisfaction and developing personally while studying.

Certainly, the article correctly suggests that people have been falsely indoctrinated to think that getting a degree in one field means getting a job in that field. As Peter Stewart pointed out: students have been the victims of a great hoax - the notion that their education is complete when they leave university is totally mistaken. That which students should gain at university is something else, namely an experience of reciprocal teaching and learning, and learning how to manage their own interests.

Perhaps a concluding thought would be that the block in the tertiary funnel will not be removed by altering the structure of tertiary education, as implied by Milliken and Hickie, but by development and change within the system, in the way of staff-student co-operation. Peter Stewart's ideas for improvements at A.N.U. make encouraging reading. He considers that students need to become more assertive of their own needs, and that they need to be better informed to do so. He suggests the publication of a kind of survival handbook for students - one which will contain information on the various ways student interests can be protected.

Issues such as student housing and welfare, the problems of overseas students, and problems of workload and assessment could be worked through in a much clearer fashion with the greater provision of information to all parties concerned.

L. TIMES, WEEK ENDING JANUARY 20, 1979

# UNIVERSITY ENTRY

## ANU in



# THE TERTIARY FUNNEL

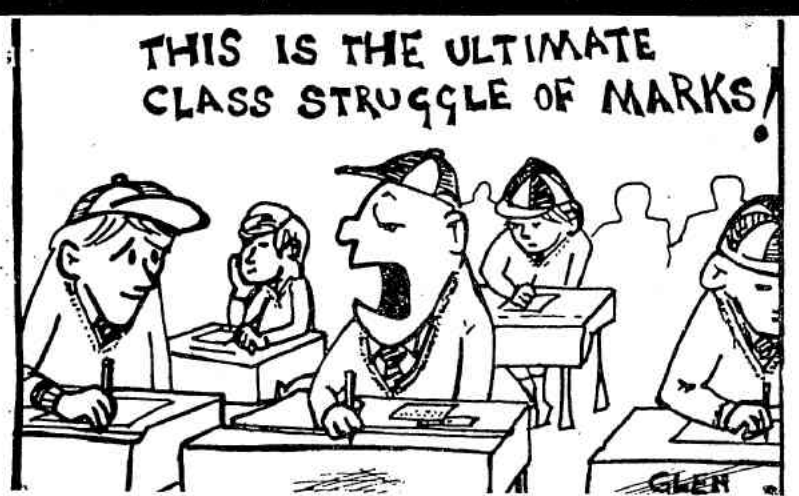
Science... are they are re... is tight... seem to be getting... belatedly, that the... favouring more... is definitely on... mean that it will be... professional faculties... and Medicine continue to... cut-off levels and there is... of any of the universities... entry standards for these...  
 surprise in 1979 is Engineering... enrolments have plummeted over... years in response to a graduate... slump in the job market. Many... approach was to try... to students while they... at school what each university... course involved and where it led.

ASS... has been... authorities' fai... policies. But as l... of people seeking... the quotas, the established... like Melbourne will feel no n... change.

### UNIVERSITY BREAKDOWN

#### Sydney University

There has been an increased d... this year for Economics, Scienc... Engineering and decreased dema... Veterinary Science, Educatio... Architecture



**PART-TIME & EXTERNAL STUDENTS**

## LOW COST HEALTH COVER

A.U.S. FRIENDLY SOCIETY STUDENT HEALTH SCHEME  
 ASK AT YOUR SRC/UNION OFFICE FOR DETAILS

# WOT'S HAPPENING

There are several new happenings and most of the old ones to enjoy this year. As I mentioned last year there will be a *Leisure and Interest Workshops Programme*. Look out for full details of how you can learn such things as guitar, massage, pottery, painting, woodcarving, macrame, photography, spinning and weaving, copper tooling, horticulture, sculpture and drawing, and Batik Art.

It is also planned to hold regular tournament nights — Billiards, snooker, pool, chess, five hundred and bridge. So if you are interested in any of the above look out for notices explaining the details.

The Bridge room now houses the colour T.V. and it is planned to sell coffee, tea, soft drinks and snacks there, as well as occasional folk and blues nights.

The Union Art Competition will be revived this year and divided into three sections — Painting and graphic, craft, and photographic. Each section will be held as a separate competition/exhibition, so start preparing your entries and watch out for details.

On the music scene, things will

be much the same as last year. Tuesday nights will feature topline national and interstate acts. The first Tuesday night of term — March 6th — is also the occasion of the first *SPECTACULAR* for the year. I realize it's very early in the year, but who could pass up the opportunity to see the incredible *SPLIT ENZ*. This gig is part of their national tour, the first gigs in Australia for over twelve months. The cost for students will be \$3 — value you will not be able to better anywhere. The cost for non-members will be \$6 which is at least \$3 below the cost of the basic concert at the Canberra Theatre. For those of you who do not know much about *SPLIT ENZ* — Shame and Pity!, find out quick, because this will be one of the highlights of the year.

Thursday night is *JAZZ NIGHT*. This year there will be Jazz Specials, as well as the regular Jazz nights. The specials will feature some of the topline Sydney groups, the first of which will be *CROSSFIRE* on April 5th.

Friday nights will be a Pot Pouri of Acts with solo acts like John Ewbank (March 9th) — original

"underground" or campus bands like *LIVE ADVENTURERS* (March 16th) or new local bands. It is not intended to be dance or rock night but rather a drinking, socialising and meeting night with a variety of entertainment, but dance if you want to.

Saturday nights will be something different this year. As well as the regular Dance nights there will be special "Cabaret Nights" — not cabaret as per tails and long gowns (although you're welcome to wear them) but cabaret in the type of acts.

The *OZO CABARET SHOW* (March 17th) and *THE WHITTLE FAMILY* (March 31st) include such acts as Mime, Magic Illusion, Fire eating, Dance, Satire and Poetry. When there is not a Cabaret night on it will be a dance night, with the best of the local Rock bands and an occasional interstate one.

For the benefit of the new students and some of the old ones I will finish by explaining the present Union Board's policy on entertainment. Firstly the activities are programmed to cater for the great diversity of tastes — yes, that does mean classical as well! Witness Friday March 16 — Bill Bowen will be giving a Lute recital

and lecture. Secondly, Union members (that means ALL undergraduate students) will be admitted to activities put on by the Union free of charge, with the exception of special occasions, like the *SPLIT ENZ SPECTACULAR*, when there will be a Members price as low as possible. Whenever there is live entertainment put on by the Union, there is a non-members admittance fee, usually \$2. This money is used to subsidise members' entertainment. Members' money is not used to subsidise non-members' entertainment. In 1978, there was \$9000 allocated to provide entertainment in the Union, whereas the turnover was around \$90,000. This means, as a lot of members have already commented — better quality entertainment, more often, at little to no cost for members — and the cheapest drinks in town. Remember, this is your Union, so use it, don't abuse it.

If you don't like the way things are happening — complain or stand for election at the appropriate time. If you see people busting up your Union, stop them or tell somebody who will.

Bob Downing  
Activities Officer.

## SPORTS UNION

### AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY SPORTS UNION

#### 1979 SPORTS UNION ELECTIONS

The 1979 Sports Union Elections will be held on 19th March, 20th March and 21 March 1979.

Nominations for  
President  
Vice-President  
Treasurer

Six (6) Council members.

should be submitted to the Sports Union Office by 4pm Thursday 15th March 1979.

Nomination forms and electoral regulations may be obtained from the Sports Union Office.

NOTE: Only members and persons who have nominated to become members of the Sports Union are eligible to stand for election, and vote at the election.

Philip G. Brodsky,  
Returning Officer.  
15 February. 1979.

If you are looking for something active and worthwhile to do during your spare time why not join in one of the following classes conducted by the A.N.U.

Sports Union:

Jazz Ballet  
Social Dance (Square/Latin-American/Ballroom)  
Yoga  
T'ai Chi  
Tennis Coaching  
Keep Fit  
Badminton Coaching  
Gymnastics  
Squash Coaching  
Martial Arts (Kendo  
Shaolin-Chuan-Fa  
Aikido  
Judo  
Twae-Kwan-Do  
Women's Self Defence)

Where possible, the activities are made available free to students, however, when a fee is charged the money is used to cover costs of instructors, venue, etc. without the objective of profit making.

If you would like to have an individual fitness programme devised to suit your needs come along and have a 'FITNESS TEST' or come to one of our 'FITNESS PROGRAMME' sessions we conduct twice weekly.

During term one the Sports Union will also be conducting a number of intramural competitions. These are in-

ted to be free, friendly and informal activities to allow peer groups from student and staff body to participate in games without the necessity of club affiliation and, more importantly, without the emphasis on intense competition.

Term One activities:

Volleyball	
Softball	Competitions will be
Touch-rugby	graded so that you
Tug-of-war.	play against others of
	the same ability.

All games will be played in the lunch break with all teams playing at least once per week. Entry forms are available from the University Sports Centre and close at 5pm Thursday 22nd March.

Even if you don't want to join in any of the activities listed, why not come over to the University Sports Centre and see what else we can offer you in sports and recreation on campus this term.

All inquiries regarding activities should be directed to Robert McMurtrie, A.N.U. Sport and Recreation Officer, C/- University Sports Centre 49 (2860).

\* O-Week — Wednesday — Stall in Union Court.  
Thursday — Sports Day.



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4394 (internal) MEDICAL/NURSING OR COUNSELLING HELP CAN BE CONTACTED FROM THERE.

IN EMERGENCY: e.g. unconscious PHONE AMBULANCE 43 8133 OR TAKE DIRECT TO CANBERRA OR WODFEN

HOSPITAL CASUALTY.

# Up Laws

This article aims to examine and criticize certain aspects of the educational policies of the A.N.U. Law School. Its specific concern is the effect of Faculty policies and attitudes regarding teaching methods and assessment on the individual student. Its motivation is a dissatisfaction with the present situation which is shared by many of my fellow students.

This dissatisfaction has been apparent for a considerable time. It has made itself felt amongst the staff, many of whom have been impelled to serious concern about issues such as workload, the tangible product of this concern was the ORAM survey of student opinion of late 1978. I approached ORAM for the results of this survey and was informed that they would be posted to me when they had been processed by the computer (except of course for individual expressions of opinion about lecturers etc., which cannot be made public). However I later received a letter informing me that the results would not be made available to students. In my opinion this is a scandalous decision. Students with whom I am acquainted took great care to express their opinions on the effect of law school education on themselves and to state workloads with accuracy. Many were grateful for this opportunity to effect some meagre control over their educational destiny and were vitally interested in the results. To deny students the opportunity to compare their individual opinions with that of the totality is both invidious and repressive. One can see no justification for such a decision.

Nevertheless one does not need the results of a survey to gauge the widespread disenchantment with the present system amongst students. Its cause, I believe, is the presence of a philosophy antithetical to education within the law

school. The examination system, to which there are no genuine alternative assessment methods is, in the words of one member of staff "anti-intellectual". My complaint is directed not, however, at examinations 'per se' but at the exigencies of the present system and their effect on students. The effect is notable. The A.N.U. Health Service complain of being besieged by numbers of law students around exam time suffering from a congeries of problems whose common cause is the stress and anxiety imposed by a tense and highly competitive system. Surely an educational system whose motivating force is derived from inducing fear and uncertainty amongst its students has an element of barbarity about it.

There are two views of the average law student. One, which (one can infer from inferences, hints and even direct comments to this effect) is held by some members of staff, is that students are lazy, stupid, untrustworthy and irresponsible. This is not a noble thought on the part of a teacher. From it derives the justification for a high failure rate. From it also derives an excessive concern for the possibility of some students gaining an advantage in marks by doing assignments and a stress by 'individual learning' as opposed to the 'committee system' and student cooperation. Thus relatively low marks are given for essay work, throughout the year with the result that students who have done tolerably well in an assignment have only two or three marks up their sleeve, for the examination. This does little to lessen the disproportionate importance of a 3-hour examination as the assessment for one year's work, and nothing to ease the tension that such a situation engenders. The argument is that it would be unfair to students who have

not attempted the essay, to give a greater advantage to those who have. It is indeed a poor solution to the unfairness of an arrangement which burdens some to burden all instead. The students reason that it is pointless to attempt essays since they involve a great deal of work and often leave one in little or no better position. Thankfully there are at least some exceptions to the low scale of marking.

My expressions of a preference for more generous marking of assignments should not be taken, however, as disregard for the plight of the student who elects to rely on the examination and as a result is prejudiced. I know of one student who failed a subject for this reason and was thereby compelled to relearn what he already knew well. Failure for this student as it often does for others meant another year and another year in a course which may already be of five years duration is a significant matter. Repetition of a subject is boring, a colossal waste of time and resources where admission standards are so high that around 140 out of 1400 applications are accepted, and incredibly destructive of student self-esteem and confidence. If one fails in the final year repetition can carry severe economic penalties and mean much in convenience. Thus one should only be failed for stringent and clear cut reasons. It is clear, that, because of admissions standards, students are intelligent enough to be able to master the work and reach a required standard. Towards the end of their course students have demonstrated their competence and application by their continued presence at the law school.

Moreover it should be borne in mind that there is an arbitrary element in examinations which can strike down the undeserving and unfortunate. Timetables militate against performances when students find themselves with three or more examinations on consecutive

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Homosexuals at A.N.U.

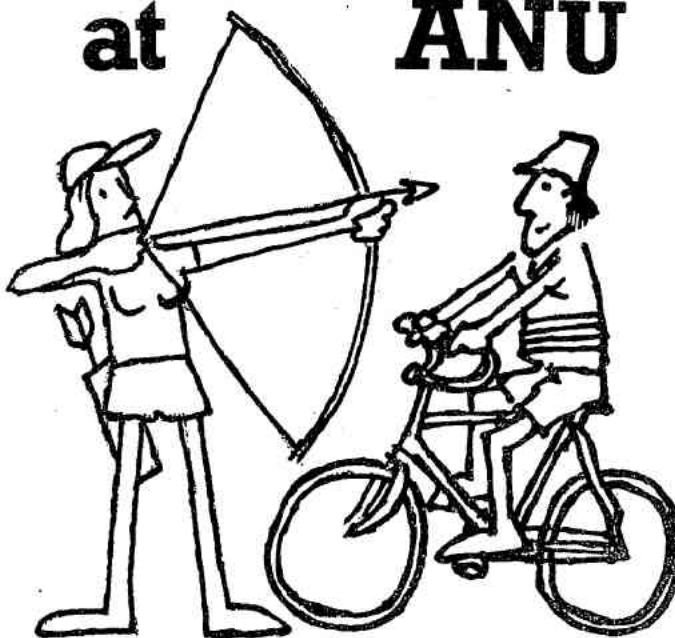
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**9<sup>th</sup> March \$3-50**

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Canberra City

8:30 PM - 3:00 AM

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ANU**



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SPORTS RECREATION HALL.

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days. Correction of this problem is an administrative matter to an extent but also raises the possibility of an examination having to be held at two separate times, a spectre which examiners are loathe to countenance but which need not hold terrors for the law lecturer who remembers:-

1. That the same major areas are tested each year and that students are aware of this and prepared for the questions which will arise.
2. That the true goal of an educational institution is to educate, and examination is merely a more or less satisfactory means of ascertaining whether this goal has been achieved.
3. That cheating will not help the student who knows nothing.
4. That in isolated cases the law faculty has already permitted students to sit examinations early when the prescribed time has been inconvenient.

Streamlining of materials and of reading is also of importance. A study-guide which contains the basic principles and cases; in other words a summary of the course, containing answers and not questions, which is clear and well-planned is of great assistance. Piles of unsorted issue cases without a study guide are not of great assistance especially when they arrive halfway through third term: Third term is a time for consolidation and revision. It is not the time for attempting to find one's way through a vast morass of unordered new material.

To recapitulate the basic theme of this article is that weight can and should be taken of examinations and that standards are to be raised and maintained by teaching and not by examinations. Failure need only be an exceptional event rather than a reality of life. By substituting tuition for reading workload can be lightened as well as in other ways.

Student opinion can be given greater weight than at present and the communications breakdown between staff and students remedied. Many students at present are afraid to voice an opinion because they are afraid that this will count against them. This is a disastrous state of affairs. An atmosphere of mutual distrust between staff and students is not conducive to learning. Student opinion on Faculty policy which vitally affects their interests is to be ignored to the detriment of the institution.

It is to be hoped that policies and perspectives such as those suggested above will spell an improvement in what is at present an oppressive, stultifying, and unpleasant institution for the student.

A second fault to which examinations are prone is that of the unduly hard paper. Unduly hard papers accentuate the arbitrary element. If on the first marking most students fail the choice on the second marking is one of selecting who failed less badly. This is ludicrous, I can state from experience that it leads to anomalous results; having known students with a good command of the subject matter who nevertheless failed because of this problem where others less well equipped passed. I stress again that failure is a serious thing. It is not to be justified by any Darwinist 'survival of the fittest' argument as applied to examinations, which are essentially artificial situations.

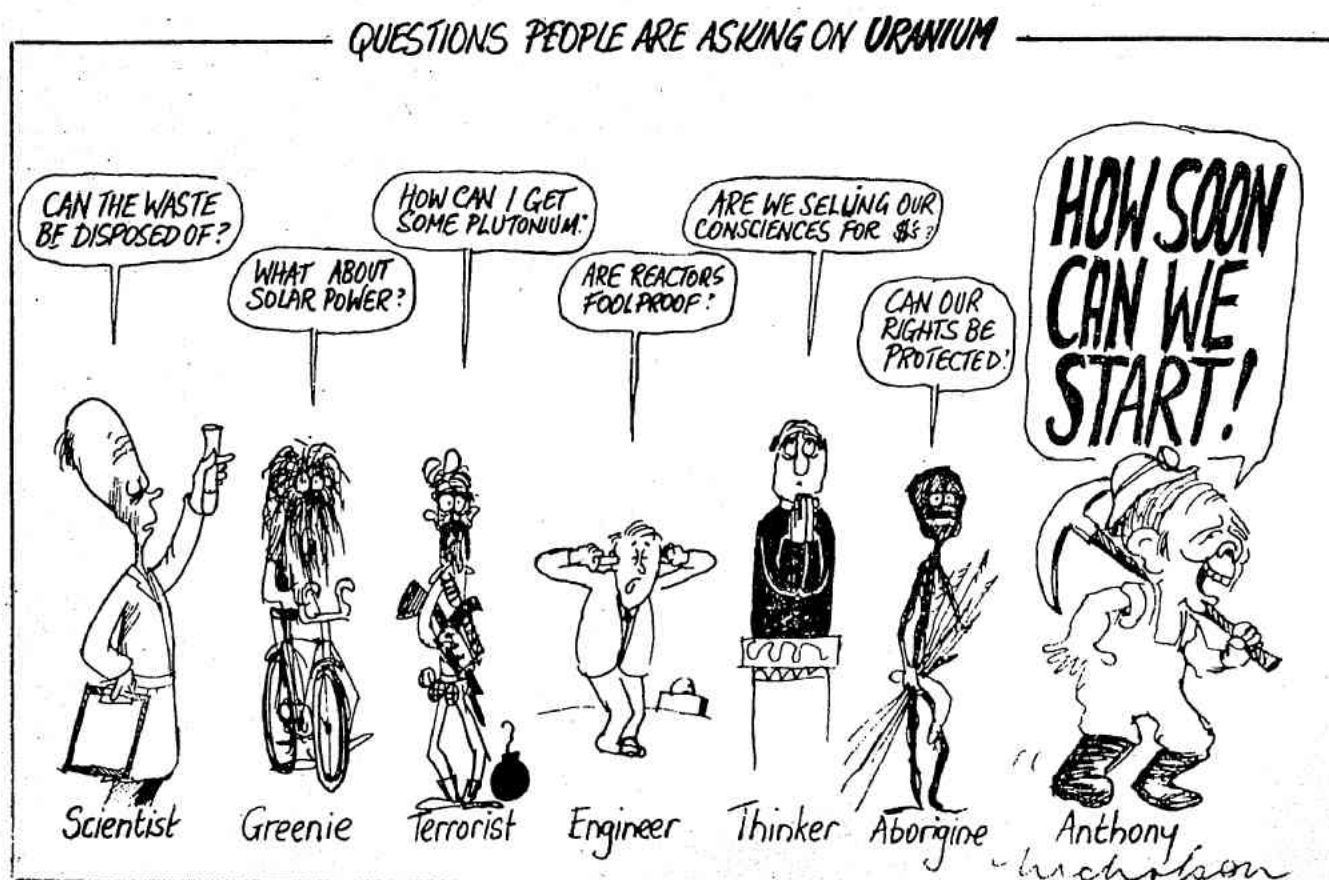
Thus while the examination is a convenient and time-honoured administrative device it suffers from two major faults, arbitrariness and artificiality, with consequent tension and stress. Both faults are considerably exacerbated when the examination is used as a device to maintain standards. Both faults could be minimised by the introduction of safeguards. One possible safeguard is 'the Post'. The student who fails is given a second bite at the cherry. The Post has much to commend it. If a student passes a post, this frees a place in a class for another and thus saves valuable education-

al resources. Most importantly a student is not arbitrarily delayed for another year. Incredible as it may seem however the law school allows only one post in a student's career; this is his final year and only if he fails only one subject. Administrative inconvenience is a poor excuse for failure to give a student who may have been a victim of misfortune beyond his control or who may be in his later years and have shown himself in the past to be a capable student the benefit of the doubt.

However, suggestions such as increasing essay marks, reducing workload and introducing more posts are merely palliatives to a system whose basic injustice derives from too great a reliance on examinations as setters of standards as well as methods of assessment and in which the examination takes the place of actual teaching as opposed to lecturing. Standards can and should be raised by improved tuition and by feedback to the student throughout the year. Feedback is a vital psychological ingredient of learning and, largely, does not exist at the A.N.U. Law School. The essence of learning lies in grasping the fundamentals of an intellectual system. This is what takes time. Before this occurs the subject matter is mystifying; afterwards it is simple and clearcut. Once an intuitive understanding of the basic principles is attained the process accelerates and refinements to the basic structure are added easily. Secondly the secret of learning is to overlearn. A certain amount of time spent in repetition and revision before pressing on to new material pays dividends. It is the feeling of some members of staff, I gather, that students are left too much to themselves. This sentiment I heartily endorse. It is easy, I suspect, for a lecturer to forget that his students have one sixth of the academic year in which to grasp what he may have spent years involved in. Some element of teaching is thus required.

Note: ORAM has informed us that the results will be released within the next two weeks.

Eds.



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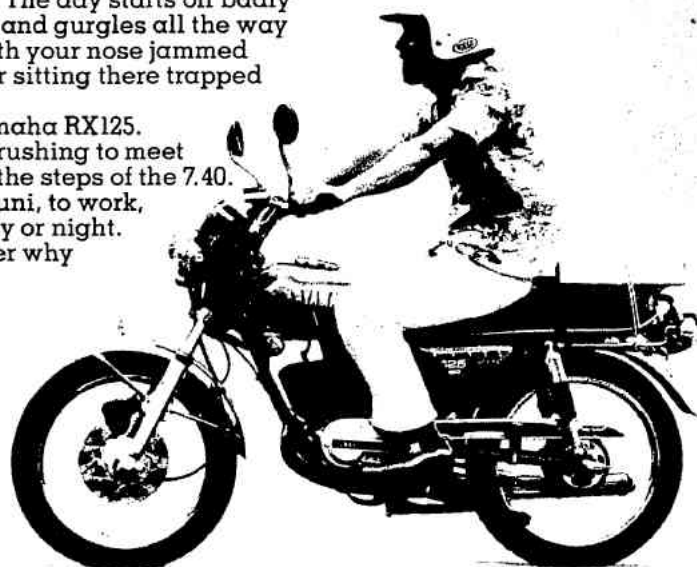
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